LIFESTYLE / E1
Top 5 things to avoid to stay beautiful, youthful, healthful

ACROSS / A20
DOH says ban on selling fish from Romblon stays until ship is refloated

NEWS / A2
Coup, swindling, harboring fugitive raps filed vs Adaza, 4 other ex-soldiers, cops

BUSINESS / B1
Peso dips to 10-month low vs dollar

SMC, Kuok set up $1-B food project

By Amy R. Roces
and Elizabeth Sanchez-Lasaca

SAN MIGUEL CORP. AND MALAYSIA'S Kuok Group of Companies have committed to spend as much as $1 billion to develop one million hectares of farmland in the Philippines and use the produce to support their food businesses.

The two companies "guarantee to buy all food products" from these farms, which will be tilled by tenant-farmers

SMC/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, July 4, 2008 ◆ Vol. 23 / No. 210 website: www.inquirer.net

GMA, Erap in race to deliver relief goods

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—SHE CAME bearing rice packs with her name on them. From ten cane paper disks, stamped with his photograph, emitting

GMA/ A21

"PERFECT OPERATION" That's how Ingrid Betancourt, ex-senator and presidential candidate in Colombia, lauds the military that freed her and 14 others including three Americans. Gen. Mario Montoya, Colombian Army chief, leads an impromptu victory march at a military base in the capital Bogota.

Colombian commandos free hostages in stunning rescue

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA—INGRID BETANCOURT woke up, as always, at 4 a.m., for another numbing day in her seventh year of rebel captivity deep in Colombia's jungle.

The former presidential candidate listened to news of her mother and daughter over the radio, and then was told to pack by her guerrilla captors—a helicopter was coming.

The sound always filled her with dread, but this time she and 14 other hostages—including three US military contractors held since 2003—were airlifted to freedom in an audaciously "perfect" operation involving military spies who tricked the rebels into handing over their prize hostages without firing a shot.

The stunning caper involved months of intelligence gathering,

COLOMBIANS/ A23

HOME TO MAMA The most prominent of the freed hostages, Ingrid Betancourt, hugs her mother, Yolanda Pulecio, as tightly.

World oil soars to $145

No quick fix to record prices, says top US exec

OIL SURGED TO A RECORD ABOVE $145 A BARREL ON Thursday, fueled by concerns over a larger-than-expected drop in US stockpiles and the threat of conflict with Iran.

Helping to lift prices were comments by Saudi Arabia's oil minister suggesting his country had no immediate plans to boost production.

Expectations that the European Central Bank (ECB) will raise interest rates later Thursday could further weaken the US dollar and drive oil prices even higher, as investors turn to commodities as a hedge against a falling greenback, traders said.

US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said there would be no quick fix to calm record oil prices that, he warned, would likely prolong the world economic slowdown.

By midday in Europe, light, sweet crude for August delivery was up $1.73 at $145.38 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Earlier in the session, it rose as high as $145.85 a barrel, a new trading record. On Wednesday, the Au-

WORLD OIL/ A19

FIRST STEPS, FIRST SHOES Jingle Luis, 15, the Filipino who came to New York for surgery to untwist her severely clubbed feet now walks unaided.

Apayao girl takes first steps in first pair of shoes

NEW YORK—A FILIPINO TEENAGER WHO CAME to New York so doctors could perform surgery to untwist her severely clubbed feet took her first unaided steps Wednesday in pink-and-white sneakers—the first pair of shoes she'd ever worn.

"I'm very happy," Jingle Luis said with a smile. "It was exciting."

"This is a miracle. I am very thankful to God."

APAYAO GIRL/ A15

Probers told ship may have been unstable

Court orders Sulpicio Lines to pay ₱6.2M to victim's kin

By Lolit B. Salaverria
and Allison W. Lopez

THE MV PRINCESS OF THE Stars may have been unstable when it sailed, thus causing it to sink and capsize after being battered by big waves, a member of the Board of Marine Inquiry (BMI) theorized yesterday.

The statements aired by Commodore Amado Romillo, a representative of the private sector, at the ongoing investigation of the sinking did not sit well with Sulpicio Lines Inc. lawyer Arthur Lim, who appealed to the BMI to suspend the announcement of its "tentative, individual findings."

Lim said the company did not want to foster an environment that would encourage the clamor for the government to take over the shipping company.

The BMI chair, Rear Adm., Ramon Liwag, assured Lim that the board would conduct its investigation fairly.

Romillo questioned the stability of the Princess of the Stars after seeing the data submitted by the company to the board showed that the ship was not holding the full ballast tanks that he said were supposed to serve as its perma-

PROBERS/ A19

By Connie E. Fernandez
Cebu Daily News

CEBU CITY—SULPICIO LINES Inc. has been ordered by the Regional Trial Court here to pay P6.2 million in damages to the family of a missing passenger of one of its ships that sank 10 years ago.

Saying that bad weather alone did not cause the sinking of the Cebu-bound MV Princess of the Orient off Fortune Island in Batangas on Sept. 18, 1998, Judge Ereda Alma Siegco of Cebu RTC Branch 12 ruled that the ship's skipper, Jesus Mallorca, and his crew were also to blame.

The judge ordered Sulpicio Lines to pay the heirs of Ernesto Grabia P6.240 million in compensatory damages, P300,000 in moral damages and P50,000 in attorney's fees.

Sulpicio Lines was also directed

COURT/ A15

Court of Appeals freezes Jocjoc's 23 bank accounts

By Jerome Aning

THE COURT OF APPEALS YESTERDAY ordered the freezing of 75 accounts in 17 banks and insurance firms linked to the multimillion-peso fertilizer fund scandal.

The freeze order came more than four years after former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Jocjoc" Bolante allegedly pulled off the scam.

Among those frozen were 23 bank accounts under the name Bolante, who is accused of diverting P728 million in fertilizer funds to finance the election campaign of President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2004.

In a unanimous resolution, the appellate court's first division granted the petition of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) to the 17 banks and insurance companies to freeze for 20 days the 75 accounts and "related web of accounts wherever those may be found."

COURT/ A19

TOO DARN HOT Retired Col. Cesar de la Pena, who has been charged along with lawyer Homobono Adasa and three others with preparing to commit coup d'etat, peels off the CSDG regulation distance shirt at Camp Crame during the inquest. (Story on Page A2.)

West Pointers 'welcomed back to reality'

By Nikko Dizon

HER BROTHERS IN ARMS towered over her but yesterday as the Officer of the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Army 2nd Lt. Christy Ian Acbanatar seemed taller—and so proud—as any of them.

Acbanatar, a 24-year-old from Davao City, is the first Filipino woman born and raised in the Philippines, as well as the first female cadet of the Philippine Military Academy, to graduate from West Point.

In the past, the prestigious United States Military Academy at West Point in New York has pro-

WEST POINTERS/ A13

BACK TO REALITY Five PMA cadets who finished their training this year at US military academies in West Point, Annapolis, and the US Air Force pose with AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Alexander Yano (center). Flanking him are, from left, Army 1Lt. Nicko Feliciano, Navy Ensigns Carl Roy Catalan and John Armando Berjarga, Gen. Cardoso Luna, AFP Vice Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Augusto Matibin, 2Lt. Christy Acbanatar and Air Force 2Lt. Mario Mendoza.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WEATHER FORECAST

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Corporate fight turns into coup plot

AFP chief on new coup plot: Are they serious?

By Nikko Dizon, Michael Lim Ubac and Jerome Aning

THE COUNTRY'S TOP SECURITY officials yesterday beheaded the credibility of lawyer Homobono Adaza and served notice that any politician or businessman who tried to bankroll an alleged attempt to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo from power would be charged.

"Are they serious?" Armed Forces chief of staff General Alexander Yano asked reporters in Camp Aguinaldo.

Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro said that the threat level of Adaza is of scary "zero."

"To be blunt[ly], there is no credibility whatsoever in terms of launching a plot of the people who are supposed to be involved in this latest caper," Teodoro said. He added that he was confident that the chances for a coup attempt to succeed was "zero."

Teodoro also disclosed that although the Philippine National Police had confirmed the alleged coup plot, President Macapagal-Arroyo was not unduly worried about it.

TEVES

No worry

"No hesitation [on her part] of any worry about the destabilization plot," said Teodoro, after a meeting of the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council of Region 4-A held in Camp General Lim in Calamba, Laguna.

The RDCC meeting, presided over by President Arroyo, was held to ascertain the impact on the Southern Tagalog region of typhoon "Frank," as well as check the progress of government's relief and rehabilitation efforts.

President Arroyo kept to her schedule despite the reported new threat to her seven-year administration.

Presidential Security Group chief Colonel Jesus Boquiren said the security alert level at the Palace complex had not been raised and that Ms Arroyo would be attending her scheduled activities for the week.

The PSG on Wednesday arrested Adaza, Army Lt. Col. Ducardo Klapuhs, retired Cols. Ernie Amboy and Cesar dela Pena, and police Supt. Rafael Cardeno after a complaint by lawyer Raymund Fortun.

Financing a coup

Fortun told the police that Adaza's GMT Security Services Inc. attempted to submit P4 million to P5.60 million from his Japanese client "in order to finance a coup d'etat."

Adaza's "friends in the military" would supposedly organize the coup.

The PSG charged Adaza et al with a "plot to commit coup d'etat," also charged were retired Colonel Edgardo Tapia and several active and junior officers Colonels Eman Arturo and Cesar de la Pena, Lt. Col. Oscar Hispalo and Supt. Rafael Cardeño.

The five were arrested Wednesday at the Corazon Hotel in Ibaba City Asunkor el. legal) accomplice, retired Col. Edgardo Tapia, managed to give police the slip and is at large.

Fortun accused the group of trying to extract $4 million from the client, Mamoru Sakuma, to fund a coup d'etat. The money was supposed to have been in exchange for solving the company's problems, instead Adaza and the others used it to bankroll the Japanese, Fortun said.

Blackmail, double-cross

"The group was supposed to oil my Japanese client in resolving their differences with their Filipino principals. Instead they turned it around. You may call it blackmail or a double-cross," Fortun told reporters at Camp Crame.

Fortun, in his affidavit said he was designated ICR legal counsel in December 2007. At the time, Sakuma, an ICR consultant, asked him how the company could solve its problems related to the delayed construction of the Boracantos island resort in Boracantos, Aklan-Iloilo, which was funded by Japanese investors brought in by Sakuma.

Fortun said he advised Sakuma the reconstruction could be speeded up by replacing the five Filipino incorporators, two of whom were Manuel Copon, the president, and Emmanuel Gaddo, the vice president.

This could be achieved, Fortun said, by executing deeds of assignment to be signed by Copon and Gaddo transferring majority ownership of the project to Sakuma's appointees.

But Copon and Gaddo would not sign the deeds of assignment.

On May 15, 2008, Fortun met with Sakuma, Boracantos resort manager Jeanne Lizalda and other ICR officers who told the lawyer they had engaged GMT Security Services Inc. to advise them on how to recover control of the resort and effect the change.

On May 20, Fortun attended a meeting with the GMT people led by a "General" Ubo in Pefia, Hispalo and Tapia. Also in attendance were ICR officers.

At the meeting, the GMT group suggested a "Plan B" and a "Plan B" to solve the problems. "Plan A" involved the filing of a libel suit and case against Boracantos, the company formed by Copon and Gaddo to provide manpower for the resort.

"Plan B" involved getting the National Bureau of Investigation to pick up Copon and Gaddo for questioning under the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, which carries a maximum penalty of six years in prison.

The following day, however, Fortun was told by Lizalda the GMT group had suggested a "Plan C" which involved the Japanese investors raising $4 million to finance a coup d'etat to be staged by GMT's "friends" in the military.

On May 27, Fortun said, he attended another meeting between GMT and ICR. This time Adaza was in attendance.

'Big project'

Adaza, according to Fortun, suggested they go with the plan to stage a coup. During the meeting, Adaza whispered to Fortun that they were in for a big thing for P10 billion.

On July 1, Fortun called Hispalo to counter-sig as a caller shop at the Clubstria mall. Adaza and Tapia were also there, Fortun said.

Secretary Adaza told me the GMT was going to consolidate on the 'big project,' i.e., the coup d'etat. He said the contributor of the Arroyo government was tentative to 45 to 60 days and that he were two groups poised to stage a coup," Fortun said.

He said Adaza then apologized and told him GMT was compelled to ask for the money from Sakuma and his investors otherwise Copon and Gaddo would be killed and they would "turn [on Sakuma] in" for the crime.

The GMT group told Fortun they had videos, documents and text messages as evidence of the plan.

Fortun said the group offered him the post of justice secretary once a revolutionary government was set up after the Arroyo administration was toppled.

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Printing life

Goodbye Lipo, Hello Ultrashape!

Ultrashape – Lipo Without The Suction – continues to make waves since Marie France launched it in Manila two years ago. Proven effective, it has become the preferred solution of most women who have fat deposits that refuse to budge, regardless of how much they diet or exercise. Gloves who have tried it were so amazed with how effectively it has reshaped their tummy, love handles and saddlebags, minus the risks, side-effects and 'downtime' they would normally endure with surgical options.

Ultrashape is the clinically proven non-invasive breakthrough for fat reduction and body contouring. It uses ultrasound waves to break down and liquefy fat even in stubborn areas. Ultrashape destroys fat cells permanently without affecting skin tissues. Immediately following treatment, the body's natural processes clear away the destroyed fat cells – and they don't come back! The result: smooth, even and shapely curves you can flaunt – even without your clothes on!

Renowned French plastic surgeon Dr. Benjamin Ascher recently presented his Ultrashape clinical results at the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (ISAPS) Annual Meeting in Melbourne, Australia. His latest study demonstrated preliminary results of a 1.5 cm. circumferential reduction after only two treatments.

Due to its great success, Marie France clients' demand for Ultrashape is high, resulting to a nearly fully booked schedule for this revolutionary method of body contouring. These clients have found a better alternative to liposuction!

Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo, 38

"When Ultrashape was offered to me, I was excited! Ultrashape concentrates on that last hard-to-lose fat that remains in your body even after you've lost weight. I told myself, at last, there was a chance to lose all that stubborn fat that just wouldn't seem to go away. The doctor explained that Ultrashape destroys the fat cells in the targeted areas like my stomach and thighs. From there, the fat is metabolized and burned naturally by my body as energy. The treatment takes an hour and a half and is done once a month.

Ultrashape is really the perfect finishing touch for people like me who have lost weight but still have some lumps and bumps. After my first treatment, I immediately said to myself 'sana, it's perfect!' Ultrashape definitely has all the benefits of lipo minus the surgery and all the risks! There's no downtime whatsoever. So you see, liposuction is unnecessary."

Lyn Ching-Pascual, 34

"What intrigued me about Ultrashape is the claim – the only treatment you can have in your lunch break. Apart from that, a friend of mine said that her friend tried Ultrashape as soon as it came out in the market. And she immediately lost 2 inches in just one month! Ultrashape promises an average of about 2cm, that's true, but it's also possible for someone to lose even more than that too. That's why for me, even if liposuction was the only weight loss treatment available, I'd rather walk up a building 300 times than have an operation because I don't want the possibility of dying for vanity.

With Ultrashape around, everyone now gets a better slimming option. Since it's non-invasive, I've got nothing to worry about. After trying it firsthand, I was like, 'is this real?!' I just walked in, got the treatment and after an hour, I was on my way back to work again! It's as if nothing happened. The best part was, I could feel my tummy flatten only after a few weeks! No doubt it's the perfect way to trim down excess fats!"

Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez, 44

"Nothing really compares to Ultrashape. When I tried it, I immediately lost 4cm in my tummy after only 1 session! Imagine what a couple of sessions more can do! Diet pills and crash dieting don't work for me. With my carrying and events business, I can't just turn my back from tasting and savoring my own menus. Moreso, if it's lipo isn't going to compare Ultrashape with, lipo doesn't even come close to it as far as safety is concerned. Besides, with Ultrashape around, why would anyone still want to settle for liposuction?; I must be very desperate or I must be so fat that I could no longer move before I'd consider getting it done. I just find it too dangerous and unnecessary!"

Marie France's Ultrashape is the ideal treatment right after a successful weight-loss program. It is highly recommended as a final touch-up to getting rid of remaining stubborn fats in the body. For booking schedules, call Marie France now at 894-BODY (2639); Cebu (032) 231-7617; Pampanga (045) 961-2481.

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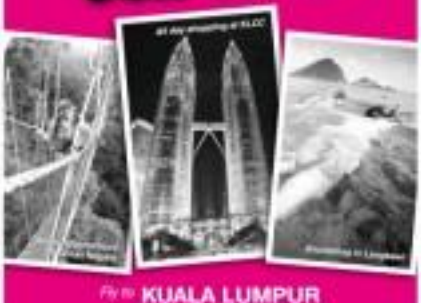

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GMA asked to explain Comelec appointments

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Kristine L. Alave

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO should explain why she passed over "more qualified" nominees on the short list of candidates for Commissioners on Elections commissioner to pick one for "inhouse reasons."

Senator Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday said, "I don't know enough if (the new appointee to the Comelec) but if there were not on the list (of the search committee), the President should explain why."

The short list had been prepared by a Malacañang search committee and reaching poll research groups. It included Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño, Cagayan de Oro City Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, former Sen. Heherson Alvarez, University of the East Law Dean Ayesha Valdez, election lawyer Howard Calleja and lawyers Perfecto Fernandez, chief of the Public Attorney's Office in the Department of Justice.

The names of the two new commissioners—former Court of Appeals Justice Lucenito Tagle and retired Muntinlupa Regional Trial Court Judge Leovanito Leonida...were not previously mentioned.

Unaware of credentials

Pimentel said he was not aware of the credentials of Tagle and Leonida or what could have led President Arroyo to pick them (a) out of the three nominees in the Comelec over the "more qualified" nominees recommended by a Palace search panel, the Bantay Eleksyon Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) and National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), among other groups.

The opposition senator said the public was entitled to know the reasons for the President's choices, considering that the Comelec was suffering from a serious credibility problem arising from unresolved charges of fraud in the 2004 and 2007 elections.

From being termed "unknowns," the new commissioners have been thrust into the spotlight after the Comelec's June 30th cancellation of the Aug. 11 elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Tagle and Leonida will join Melo and the three other commissioners—Rene Sarmiento, Nicodemo Ferrer and Nicholson Macaraeg—in overseeing the unresumed polls in the volatile region after they were sworn into office yesterday morning at the Comelec office in Intramuros, Manila.

Hit ground running

"We won't waste time (here in the Comelec) as we hit the ground running. We only have a month before the ARMM elections...their baptism of fire—so we asked them to huddle (done) to mark right away," Melo said.

Sarmiento, a former Comelec chairman and Commissioners Florentino Tuason and Resurreccion Borra.

Just last year, the one held by the late Commissioner Romeo Brawner, remains vacant.

The appointment of Tagle and Leonida took the congressional and election watchdogs by surprise.

PPRCV chair Henrietta de Villa said she had not met the two and their appointment raised questions about the process of picking commissioners.

"There's the element of surprise. Where did they come from? Who recommended them? What kind of process was used, that's all," she said.

But she said they were willing to "give (them) the benefit of the doubt."

No offense taken

Tagle and Leonida, meanwhile, said they were busy on helping the Comelec conduct honest and peaceful elections in Mindanao.

Leonida said he did not take offense when he was described as an "unknown."

He also denied reports he was being scheduled for changes in the Supreme Court for an alleged indiscretion.

"It has no basis. All their sources against me were unknown," he said. The story was "very untrue and malicious," his wife Myrna said.

For Tagle: "I think I can help a lot in improving elections. I come to the commission bringing with me integrity and credibility. I think these two are very important."

Both admitted they were surprised the President picked them.

"This came as a surprise although I was told I was on the short list...I heard I was nominated by several religious and nongovernment organizations," Tagle said.

Leonida, who said his appointment was the culmination of his law career, said he had heard some groups had backed his nomination but he could not remember their names.

Corrections

IN THE JUNE 23 ISSUE, Ramon J. Farolan's "Bersilio" column on Page A15 of the Opinion section—"Reflections on Air Force Day"—misspelled the name of a former member of the Philippine Air Force Blue Diamonds aerial aerobatic team. His name is Capt. Mariano Navarro Jr.—not Capt. Marciano Navarro.

* * *

IN THE JULY 3 ISSUE, the editorial on Page A10 of the Opinion section—"Comelec's choice"—misspelled the name of now ex-Manny Pacquiao's former opponent. The opponent was Juan Manuel...not Jose Miguel—Marquez.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for corrections by letter or e-mail to: Public Editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th floor, Philippine Daily Inquirer Bldg., Chino Roces Avenue corner Shaw Blvd., Makati City; fax (63-2) 896-6160; e-mail address: public@inquirer.com.ph.

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Senators oppose Sulpicio takeover

THE SENATE IS HOISTING Malacañang's plan to takeover Sulpicio Lines, owner of MV Princess of the Stars which sank and capsized on June 21 with 838 passengers and crew.

Sen. Francis Escudero said a state takeover would only make the shipping industry "worse" considering that government had no expertise in running a profit-oriented passenger and cargo shipping line.

"Sobra-sobra (all the government got) the money?! The Constitution states that there shall be no taking without just compensation," said Escudero in a text message.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita earlier said that the government was considering a temporary takeover of SLI's operations—until it can find a buyer or the go-signal of Congress first.

He warned that a takeover should be set aside momentarily as the government was more concerned about keeping cargoes.

Sen. Pia Cayetano said Malacañang was better off working at improving maritime regulations instead of hatching takeover plans to solve the problem caused by the sinking of Sulpicio's ferry.

She said that while the Constitution provided for a government takeover, the move would still not address the problem within agencies that were responsible for safety in the seas.

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, a major player in the inquiry into the sinking of the 40 percent of all sea cargo shipments.

He said that while the shipping company had to take responsibility for the disaster, other government agencies, like the Philippine Coast Guard and Maritime Industry Authority, should also step up to relieve mistakes.

Ermita said that government agencies and shipping lines should always consider the safety of passengers and cargo as all lines warned of having an "aggressive, go-go" mission.

Sulpicio Lines Inc. itself said yesterday talk of a government takeover of their operations was premature since there were "constitutional parameters" that had to be first set by the courts.

SLI spokesperson Victoria Lim-Florido said that a takeover occurred only in times of national emergency and as required by public interest, but the grievances and merits of such a situation must first be settled by the courts.

—Gil Cabacungan Jr. and AJA con M. Lopez

The Daily Gospel

Friday, July 4, 2008
14th Week in Ordinary Time
Ufa, Queen of Portugal

1st Reading: Hos 8:4-6, 9-12
Gospel: Mt 9:9-13

As Jesus moved on, he saw a man named Matthew at his post as the customhouse. So he said to him, "Follow me." And Matthew got up and followed him. Now it happened, while Jesus was at table in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners joined Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this they said to his disciples, "Why is it that your master eats with those sinners and tax collectors?"

When Jesus heard this he said, "Healthy people do not need a doctor, but sick people do. Go and find out what this means: What I want is mercy, not sacrifice. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Commentary:

From Catechism Book II, Matthew is the one, and second within him a change that not even his closest friends could have ever predicted. From a worldfilled with riches and greed, St. Matthew emerged as one who would call other people to the life of poverty and simplicity of life. Following in the footsteps of the Lord is one who became poor so that we might become incredibly wealthy.

May we, like St. Matthew, be wise enough to respond generously to the Lord's life-changing invitation to follow Him along the path of true discipleship.

Satur's case moved to Manila

By Allison W. Lopez

THE MULTIPLE MURDER CASE against Commander Rusty of the Philippines founder Jose Maria Sison, Reynaldo Mata Boy, Satur Ocampo and National Democratic Front member Luis Jalandoni, accused of the mass slaying of leftist rebels in an alleged communist purging in Leyte will now be handled by the Manila Regional Trial Court after the Supreme Court granted a petition for a change of venue due to safety reasons.

The third division of the high tribunal approved the request made by Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez on April 23, 2008, citing the danger to the lives of "the witnesses, the prosecutor and the judge" if trial dogs were held in Hilongos, Leyte.

The SC en banc earlier denied a similar pleading made by Ocampo in April 2007 for "lack of merit."

Executive Judge Reynaldo Roa received the case, which will be raffled off among the RTC branches.

The three leftist leaders were among several others who were accused of ordering the massacre of around 30 farmers in 1985 as part of supposed purging of military assets within the New People's Army in southern Leyte.

The respondents were tagged as members of the investigating and executive committees of the CPP-NPA, which supposedly abducted and tortured the victims who suspected of being military spies or informants.

Others of the reported victims' bodies were found in a mass grave in Inopacan, Leyte, in 2006.

The accused have claimed innocence in the killings, but while Sison and Jalandoni remained in exile in the Netherlands, Ocampo was arrested by the police in March last year.

Bill to disallow 'subs' in surgery

By Christian V. Esguerra

1ST ANDYBS CONGRESSIONAL SESS. now is in the works concerning the facial medical/cadaver.

An administration lawmaker has filed a bill seeking to punish what he called the practice of "ghost surgeries" within the medical profession. The measure also prohibits a similar practice in the field of anesthesia.

Consolacion Rep. Lito Villafuerte said his House Bill No. 4101 was intended to "establish safeguards to protect patients from the ethical, legal, professional, and dangerous practice of 'ghost surgery.'"

The practice involves a surgeon allowing another surgeon to operate on a patient without properly informing the person or his relatives about the substitution, according to the bill.

Villafuerte said a similar practice could also be happening in anesthesia where anesthesiologists perform the task on an unattended patient.

"Substitution can be done in basketball games or in any other sporting activity, but should not be done in the practice of medicine," he said in a statement.

Villafuerte's proposal was the latest in a string of measures concerning the medical profession.

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In Frank's wake, Romblon gets gov't attention

RELIEF FOR FRANK'S VICTIMS Tayan Lucio Tan, Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas (center) and officers of the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. (FFCCCII) inc.by its president John Tan (fourth from right) distribute relief goods to hundreds of evacuees at the Jaro gymnasium in Iloilo. Consisting of rice, noodles, canned food and instant water, the FFCCCII prepared 10,000 bags of relief goods for displaced families in Aklan, Antique, Capiz and Iloilo. The relief mission was undertaken in cooperation with the local chapter of FFCCCII.

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT and Natural Resources is set to push up Romblon, which has witnessed the horrors of Typhoon "Frank" after a ferry carrying more than 700 passengers sank off its coast.

Environment Secretary Lito Atienza yesterday announced that the agency would lobby for the inclusion of Romblon in the $62.5-million integrated coastal resources management project (ICRMP) to help it recover from the effects of Typhoon Frank.

With the 10-storied 899 Princess of the Stars yet to be "collared" off Sibuyan Island, shoreline residents have been banned from fishing, their main source of livelihood.

A report last week that the capsized ferry carried endosulfan, a highly toxic pesticide, provoked authorities to suspend operations in retrieving hundreds of bodies believed to be trapped inside the ship. Efforts to raise the sunken ship were hampered up by deadly waves brought about by Frank. (See related story on Page A2/3)

The ferry owned by Sulpicio Lines, sank en route to Cebu while on its way from Manila to Cebu. Only 57 survived among the 862 passengers and crew members aboard the 23,000-ton vessel.

Authorities have yet to recover the dangerous chemical kept in a 40-foot container and "transported" by the ferry's seabound ruin. A leak of the chemical may trigger massive damage to marine life in the area.

Atienza vowed that he would strongly endorse the inclusion of Romblon in the six-year project, whose implementation began this year, when the ICRP steering committee meets on Tuesday.

"I would not be surprised if the body receives a favorable response from ADB given the importance of Romblon's coastal and marine resources, upon which most of its poor residents depend on," he said in a statement yesterday.

So far, the Asian Development Bank-funded project has covered 68 coastal towns in Cagayan, Davao, Masbate, Zambales and Davao Oriental.

The project aims to improve the management of coastal and marine resources of areas with high incidence of poverty. Atienza noted that Romblon is among the 10 poorest provinces in the country.

Under the project, communities along these coastal areas were provided with motorboats, handheld two-way radios, digital cameras and diving gears to combat illegal fishing activities.

Community-beneficiaries would also be empowered with modern mapping tools like portable geographic positioning, pilot's, scanners and handheld global positioning systems.

Low pressure area spotted off Masbate

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A LOW PRESSURE AREA HAS been spotted hours over Masbate, but the weather bureau yesterday said the country would not be dealing with Typhoon "Unsa" anytime soon.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration considered the low pressure area yesterday in the vicinity of Masbate.

Pikachin specialist Cito Perez said the low pressure area would bring about rains and thunderstorms in Mindoro, central and southern Luzon, The Visayas, including Romblon, the site of the shipwrecked MV Princess of the Stars.

The weather development came a day after the government suspended all retrieval operations of a very dangerous cargo of endosulfan and the hundreds of bodies believed to be trapped inside the 23,800-ton vessel.

In suspending the operations, the government has opted to refloat the vessel for the safe retrieval of the highly toxic chemical "transported" in its uncharted way.

But Perez said it was unlikely that the low pressure area would develop into a storm. The near typhoon that would hit the country would be named "Unsa" (pronounced Oonsa-Chan), from a kind of flower found in Cambodia.

"The low pressure area is already traversing Visayas now so it would be impossible for it to intensify into a storm," said Perez. He further explained that low pressure area develop into a storm only when it hovers over the sea for a long period of time.

The low pressure area, however, would induce widespread rains over the western sections of Visayas and Mindanao, which may trigger landslides and flash floods, according to the Pagasa bulletin.

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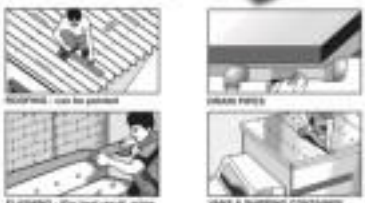

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DEALERS WELCOME!

'BAD FOR BUSINESS'

Ship owners buck new sailing guidelines during storms

By Lala B. Salaverria

THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD'S new, more stringent guidelines for ships sailing during storms could be tested soon if the prevailing tropical depression turns into a typhoon.

Ship owners and operators, however, have raised their opposition to the rules, claiming they would be detrimental to passengers and business.

The interim guidelines prohibit a vessel from leaving port when Storm Signal No. 1 has been raised at its port of origin, along its route or at its port of destination.

The interim rules were issued after the sinking of the MV Princess of the Stars off Sibuyan Island in Romblon at the height of Typhoon "Frank" recently while the ship was en route to Cebu with over 800 passengers and crew on board.

Passengers still missing

Majority of the passengers remain missing and are presumed to have gone down with the ship, owned by Sulpicio Lines.

Yesterday the PCG reminded ship owners and operators about the new guidelines which go into effect once the weather becomes—the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa)—has raised a storm signal.

"If a signal is raised, it would be the first time the guidelines would be tested," said PCG spokesperson Lt. Commander Armand Balilo.

Balilo said the guidelines would be followed until new ones are issued.

Vessels at sea

Under the guidelines, vessels already at sea must seek shelter immediately when signal No. 1 is raised in its vicinity, along its intended route or at its destination.

Vessels would only be allowed to leave a port to seek shelter elsewhere if they have no passengers or cargo.

"Responsibility and discretion on how to seek shelter and ensure the safety of the ship is left to the ship owners and masters of the vessel," the PCG said.

But ship owners have contested the new rules, saying they would result in passengers being stranded, businesses suffering delays and income being lost if they were implemented.

Instead, the Philippine Inter-Island Shipping Association (Pisa) proposed the guidelines be modified to leave to the owners' discretion the decision to allow their vessels to sail when Signal No. 1 has been raised at the port of origin, along the route or destination, and if the probability of the storm signal being raised further was evil.

Pisa also proposed the old guidelines be changed to allow vessels 2,000 gross tons and under to sail and take shelter at Signal No. 2 if it is carrying no passengers but only cargo.

16 to 20 typhoons

Pisa said between 16 and 20 typhoons hit the country a year with each lingering three to five days. The new guidelines would mean no ships could sail at least 96, possibly 100, days a year, it said.

It pointed out the shipping industry transports some 47 million passengers and moves 73 million metric tons of cargo a year, numbers that would be adversely affected under the interim guidelines.

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OFWS DISGUISED AS TOURISTS

Illegal recruiters using Clark as victims' exit

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO YESterday asked authorities to keep a tight watch on the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) in Clark, Pampanga, which has become the favorite exit point for victims of illegal recruitment.

De Castro's move came after an anti-illegal recruitment composite group led by representatives from the Office of the Vice President off-loaded five female passengers from a Malaysia-bound plane for possessing spurious travel documents.

They were intercepted at the airport following a tip from a Philippine police attaché in Malaysia that the DMIA was being used by illegal recruiters as exit point for their victims.

Based on initial investigation, the five women claimed they were going to Malaysia as tourists. Upon questioning, however, they finally admitted that they were going to work in Kuala Lumpur as domestic helpers.

No packet money

The composite group composed of operatives from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group—the International Police Crime Division (CIDG-IPCD), Philippine National Police (PNP) Directorate for Intelligence, Bureau of Immigration (BI), and the Philippine Overseas Employment Authority (POEA) blocked the five passengers just before the 11:45 scheduled flight of the Air Asia commercial plane to Kuala Lumpur.

De Castro said the victims were not carrying any packet money when arrested, thereby bolstering suspicion that they were not going to Malaysia as tourists.

The Vice President said the victims were not allowed to bring cellular phones by their alleged recruiters whom they identified as a certain Edwin Romero y Quintellon.

According to Col. Gilbert Asis, CIDG-IPCD chief, Quintellon has pending warrants of arrest for illegal recruitment and estafa. The victims told they have not met Quintellon.

Meanwhile, De Castro instructed CIDG Senior Supt. Gilbert Asis, BI lawyer, and other law enforcement officials to hunt Quintellon for filing of appropriate charges against him.

He commended Jose, BI lawyer Antonio Rivera, DMIA Security Group chief Gen. Jose Marlowe Pedregosa, and the other participating agents for "work well done."

"While the government is doing everything to help our beloved Overseas Filipino Workers, we are also determined to stop illegal recruitment by preventing this kind of incidents," said De Castro, who is also the presidential adviser on OFWs.

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14 more bodies found in Sibuyan waters

By Tarra Quismundo

SAN FERNANDO, ORIENTAL MINDORO—Bodies were discovered just as search and retrieval operations for the missing passengers and crew of the MV Princess of the Stars came to a halt.

Fourteen more bodies, two of them identified as those of employees of the shipowner, Sulpicio Lines Inc., were found yesterday in waters off Sibuyan, authorities here said.

One of the bodies—reportedly wearing a lifejacket and bearing keys and a cell phone—could be that of the ship's captain, according to volunteer worker Rodney Golicbi. But this could not be verified.

The discovery came as the bulk of the government's announcement that the ill-fated vessel would be refloated to make the task of retrieving the trapped corpses and a cargo of the toxic pesticide endosulfan simpler, safer and faster.

"We are expecting more [bodies]," Sen Fernando Maeve Dimotic Tanangco told reporters yesterday.

She said the two Sulpicio Lines employees were Joselito Ocana, a security officer of the company, and Jenet Lanceras, a ship-cum-nurse.

Calinbuan Mayor Rick Ramon said he had advised the Coast Guard to look out for more bodies.

Different barangays

"I suspect that those bodies already drifted far away, but now the tides, the current and the wind's direction have pushed them back to Sibuyan," Ramon said.

Chief Insp. Reynaldo Reyes, police chief of San Fernando, said four of the bodies, including those of Ocana and Lanceras, were found off Magsaysay.

"We found them in the waters between [Barangays] Ipil and Ambulong this morning when we were on our way to fetch [the police divers] in another town]. We got [see them and we found the bodies," Reyes told the fishermen.

He said the bodies were discovered in a group, each some 20 meters apart from the other. Three still had life vests on.

Ramon said seven bodies were found by fishermen off Olanivet barangays of Calintaan.

"The fishermen wrapped the bodies in tarpaulin and tied them to the boats to bring them to shore," he told the Inquirer.

Tanangco said Sulpicio Lines had promised to collect the bodies and load them onto its ship, the SR Cagayan Princess, while in the day.

Ban still in effect

The bodies will be taken to Cebu, where at least 50 others had been shipped for identification through the aid of forensics.

Authorities have yet to sort out the figures to provide the listed body count.

The ban on all sea activity on the island will remain in effect until the Princess of the Stars has been towed away and the waters prove negative of pesticide contamination, said Tanangco. (See story to Aaron the Action, A20.)

Tanangco notes officials are still awaiting Sulpicio Lines' letter on the government's decision to refloat the ship. The company is obliged to appoint a salvor. With reports from Madonna T. Virola, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Probers told ship may have been unstable

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sent ballast.

Ballast tanks are used to stabilize the ship and are filled with an empirical of water as needed.

According to Bautista, two of the four ballast tanks were empty and two were filled. "It's not obvious the ship sailed without the proper quantity of ballast," he said.

Bautista also cited Tagaro in the management" of the Princess of the Stars.

He said the ship had only one form of communication—the single side band radio—with the ports, and that there were certain hours when no one was manning the radio communication.

Time, he said, the ship was unable to receive an important weather bulletin at 11 p.m. on June 20, the day it set sail.

Center of gravity

The Princess of the Stars sank at the height of Typhoon "Frank" off Sibuyan Island in Romblon on June 21. It was en route to Cebu from Manila and was carrying more than 800 people and a cargo of the pesticide endosulfan on board.

Benjamin Esposito, the port captain of Sulpicio Lines in Manila, said some ballast tanks had to be emptied to accommodate the cargo and ensure the ship's stability.

But Bautista said the ballast was needed be continued refilling regardless of the cargo on board.

"If they discharge ballast in place of cargo, you change the center of gravity. Then you can't consider the vessel stable," Bautista said, adding that the lives of passengers," Bautista said.

Esposito replied that selected tanks were full, but added that he did not have all the data about the ballast tanks with him. He said he will that the data would be submitted soon.

Dead in the water

Bautista, who showed Inquirer pictures of the upturned ship published in the Internet and e-mailed to Philippine Coast Guard report to him, said the vessel was dead in the water and was drifting after it capsized.

The pictures showed a portion of the ship's bow protruding from the sea off Romblon.

Bautista also said it was necessary that kept a ship afloat, and the firemen could have been caused by the sh in the empty ballast tanks.

"A ship will sink if there is continued ingress of water. But if there's enough buoyancy left on board, that will keep the ship afloat even though the opposite," Bautista said.

He said this could mean that the ballast tanks of the ship were empty when it sailed.

"What's keeping her afloat is her empty ballast tanks. The reason the stern is lower is the cargo," he said.

According to Bautista, the ballast should be calculated while the ship is at port, and not while at sea.

He said this because of the high center of gravity of the cargo, it appeared there was not enough weight down below, causing the ship to list when it was hit by strong waves.

If the ship had more weight below, it would have righted itself when hit by the waves, he said.

Rhetorical observations

But Lim objected to the stating of Bautista's views.

He also questioned Bautista's statements, saying "Maybe the vessel is still on because it is moving on something, not because it is floating."

He asked the IMI to suspend judgment on the ballast tanks and the ship's stability given the government's decision to refloat it.

"It's purely speculative even when backed by scientific theory," Lim said. "I don't think it will be fair to make conclusions that certain things were done or not done."

He also asked the IMI to consider that the ship "never capsized" struck in the eye of Typhoon," and that the tragedy was "very unusual."

Lim pointed out that there was talk about the government's takeover of Sulpicio Lines, and said he did not want Bautista's views to color the public into thinking that the idea should be carried out.

He said Bautista's statement about the ship were a "rhetorical observation."

"Sir, if the media will publish up, everybody in the industry will be upset to have the closure of Sulpicio. I don't believe the board should be the announcement of a unsure [plan] anyone might have," he said.

No knowledge of guidelines ...

A circular on the movement of vessels during heavy weather was one of the highlights of yesterday's hearing, with Sulpicio Lines insisting that it had not used the updated version of the guidelines issued by the Coast Guard.

Manila port captain Esposito reportedly told the IMI that he had "no knowledge" of the guidelines discussing the controversial circular, which a vessel could leave port during bad weather, and whose responsibility it was.

Only Signal No. 1 was raised in Manila when Princess of the Stars was allowed to leave port of Manila on June 20.

"Bayan akare steps: batch pinapasuko nag barko or hindi pinapasuko [The question] is how [the ship's captain] allowed to leave or not)," Rear Adm. Bernardo Mata, the IMI vice chair, told Esposito.

According to Esposito, the Coast Guard in the "last instance" in allowing ships to sail during typhoons, as it approved the Master's Oath for Safety Departure (MOSD) signed by the ship captain.

But according to the IMI, the Coast Guard merely "accepts" the MOSD and checks for stability.

...Or of 2007 circular

Sulpicio Lines lawyer Lim said he was aware of the previous circulars issued in 1998 and 1998 but did not know of the most recent issued last year.

Edgar Go, Sulpicio Lines vice president, likewise denied seeing the circular.

But the board pointed out that ship operators like Sulpicio Lines should have had a copy of such an important document.

Coast Guard safety officer Teodoro Pargo said the latest version of the circular was discussed at a meeting attended by shipowners.

Irwin Inalagan, the retired Coast Guard station commander, queried the ship's captain according to the MOSD that the vessel was not carrying more cargo, when it actually held a 10,000-kilo cargo of endosulfan.

Sulpicio Lines has denied knowing that the cargo stored by Bel Marie Philippines Inc. contained endosulfan.

Pargo said that the boarding team found no violations in the ship based on the MOSD, the Aleling has than half of its passenger capacity of 1,882.

He said the 23,000-ton ship was allowed to sail based on Coast Guard guidelines allowing vessels of such weight to proceed to its destination even if Signal No. 2 had been raised.

Court orders Sulpicio Lines to pay ₱6.2M to victim's kin

Front page 4 ▸

to pay ₱50,000 in indemnity for the death of Onofria, whose body was never found.

Pargo issued the decision on the devastating typhoon in January 2006, but reporters have uncovered the case was made on Wednesday, after they found a copy of the appeal filed by Sulpicio Lines dated August.

The company filed the appeal only a month before the Princess of the Stars, with 800 on board, sank off Sibuyan Island.

Mayor Nanette Tanangco of San Fernando, Sibuyan, yesterday said the mayor province of Romblon was "looking serious" in filing a case before it with against Sulpicio Lines for the damage being wrought by the shipwreck.

"There are direct and indirect costs to us—the former includes the actual cost of rescue and retrieval, and the latter, the fear of the people and shore line [with] tourist," Tanangco told the Inquirer.

She said she and other officials were consulting with lawyers on how to file the suit.

"We are the following we are serious in our business, of course, we are not a rich people," Tanangco said. "I was really depressed when I heard of the surge of endosulfan in the ship because [contaminated] water is a threat to our sources for as long as the ship is there."

The mayor added that Sulpicio Lines had presented to other than the government of San Fernando for the expenses incurred in the search, rescue and retrieval operations.

Captain's error

Judge Pargo said the weather condition at the time of the Princess of the Ocean's voyage was "not the rule and preponderance" cause of its sinking.

He said there was a "preponderance" of evidence that the captain, Maldion, miscalculated when he "ill-recently navigated the ship at its last recent terminal."

Pargo quoted a report of Maritime Inquiry (IMI) report that the cause of the sinking was the captain's "erroneous assumption of the vessel ballast is safe."

"Gross supervision on the part of the shipowner could have prevented this fatal accident. As such, the shipowner was equally negligent," Pargo said.

Bautista's wife, Nenia Onofria, said she wanted to be compensated for the loss of her husband when she filed a civil case against Sulpicio Lines and demanded ₱15 million in damages.

The ₱6.2 million was considered as Onofria's net earnings if he had continued working for 15 years in a salary of ₱3,000 (₱120,000) monthly as a seaman in a foreign vessel.

In the motion for reconsideration filed on June 6 by lawyer Arthur Lim, Sulpicio Lines said Maldion had not been negligent and had "ultimately tried to save his ship up to the bitter end."

"He heroically went down with his ship," Sulpicio Lines said.

The shipping company said a careful reading of the IMI report would show that Maldion was not to blame for the sinking.

It also said the IMO did not find negligence on the part of the company.

Similarities

There are stark similarities between the circumstances of the sinking of the Princess and the Princess of the Stars.

Both were overdosed the biggest ships of Sulpicio Lines during their time—in 1998 and 2008, respectively.

Both ships set sail in stormy weather. Both skippers remain missing.

Court records show that Lt. Col. Victorio Cura-an, a passenger of the Princess of the Orient, testified that the ship left Manila at about 8 p.m. of Sept. 18, 1998.

He said that, shortly before the ship sank at port 1 p.m., as crew members were around to roll him and the other passengers what to do and where to go.

Sulpicio Lines presented the ship's radio operator, Edgar Samson, who told the court that he received a weather report on a tropical depression from Central Luzon that was scheduled to cross Manila.

According to Samson's testimony, Maldion phoned the crew in and concluded that it was still fit.

Two hours after leaving Manila, the Princess of the Orient met strong winds and waves and started listing to the left.

Samson said citizens rolls which Maldion maneuvered the wheel. Then Samson heard the order to abandon ship.

Samson recalled that before he jumped overboard, he saw Maldion on the bridge of the vessel, helping the passengers board life rafts.

Marathon inquiry

Salvacion Bautista, Sulpicio Lines vice president for passenger welfare, said the court hearing on the sinking of the 1998 incidents received ₱80,000 in indemnity.

In Manila, House Speaker Prospero Nograles endorsed a marathon House investigation into the sinking of the Princess of the Stars.

Nograles said the inquiry should certainly lead to improvements in the maritime industry and "plug loopholes" in maritime laws.

The House committee on transportation is to start the inquiry at 2:30 p.m. on Monday.

The Speaker said he was not unreasonable to have proved that the government rules over Sulpicio Lines.

In a statement, he said his conclusion on the matter "effectively shut down the takeover proposal as the approval of Congress is required before such government-owned corporation."

Instead of a takeover, the government should "run the full force of the law" to punish the people responsible for the sinking of the Princess of the Stars, Nograles said.

In constant touch

He said it now appeared that the sinking was caused by "negligence and bad judgment." He said the concerned government officials in the maritime industry "should also be asked to explain to the Bible people."

At the same time, criminal and civil charges should be filed against Sulpicio Lines, Nograles said.

Commenting on the planned class action suit of the province of Romblon, Sulpicio Lines spokesperson Victoria Lim-Florido said the company was "constantly in touch" with local officials in solving the problems that had stemmed from the shipwreck.

"There's no amicable settlement because no case has been filed. I think they're coming up with rates and amount to refer to in the event it occurs," the lawyer said in Manila.

She declined to elaborate, only saying that Sulpicio Lines was "looking into" matters like providing livelihood to the fishermen who had lost their income because of the fallout.

Florido said reflooring the Princess of the Stars remained an option but that there were many factors to consider before this could be done, including "the environment, the retrieval operations, and the various legal relationships that have emerged from it."

"We are in discussion with a lot of foreign experts as to how best to do it. It's not true that there's hesitance on the part of Sulpicio to do this," she said.

With reports from Joyce Quimpo in Cebu, Gelo Bonilla, Nancy Carvajal and Jay Sonido in Romblon, Jehan G. Gutierrez, Christine F. Esguerra and Allison B. Zagala in Manila

Game consoles are dirtiest of e-wastes

By Jocelyn R. Uy

GAME CONSOLES ARE THE "DIRTIEST" among electronic gadgets, according to environmental group Greenpeace in its latest global ranking of firms in terms of their efforts to eliminate toxic chemicals and recycle their products once they become obsolete.

Greenpeace yesterday released the most recent "Guide to Greener Electronics," which ranks 18 top manufacturers of personal computers, mobile phones, televisions and audio and video recorders according to their policies on toxic chemicals, recycling and climate change.

But the guide, which the group issues quarterly, does not rank the firms on labor standards, social responsibilities or any other issues.

It only aims to push these manufacturers to go "green" and to make sure that their products are toxic-free when they end up in dumpsites, said Beau Baconguis, Greenpeace toxics campaigner in a press briefing in Makati City yesterday.

Nintendo, a Japan-based game console maker, placed at the bottom of the list with a "partial" 0 points out of 10, scoring zero on all environmental issues it assessed criteria, the guide showed.

US-based game console manufacturer Microsoft was ranked 17th with 3.3 points for its weak support for "individual producer responsibility."

Under the e-waste criteria, Greenpeace expects companies to take financial responsibility for dealing with electronic waste generated by their products and to take back discarded products in all countries and in a no-fee basis "responsibly."

Carbon emissions

While some improvement on the phase-out of toxic chemicals used in electronic products has been seen, its carbon dioxide emissions jumped by six percent in 2006 due to an increase in business, said Baconguis.

The company was also observed to be in the process of phasing out polyvinyl chloride (PVC) in its packaging and monitoring the use of other hazardous chemicals such as antimony and beryllium.

But Baconguis pointed out that the company has yet to put out PVC-free and brominated flame retardant (BFR)-free models in the market.

Greenpeace is working against the use of PVC for its "highly toxic and carcinogenic" properties that have been linked to female and male reproductive abnormalities.

On the other hand, BFRs—a wide range of brominated chemicals added to materials to inhibit their ignition and slow down combustion—have known toxic properties that are highly resistant to degradation in the environment.

Nokia, which scored best in terms of phasing out toxic chemicals, recently announced that it would ban certain phthalates—mostly found in PVCs—by the end of 2010, in line with its target to market products which are PVC-free or BFR-free, according to the report.

Sharp, for its part, has said that its first phone phase with 3.1 points was mobile phone maker Sony Ericsson and television manufacturer Sony for selling products that are already PVC-free and for its commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

Sony Ericsson scored high for putting out energy-efficient gadgets.

Following closely were cellphone producers Nokia (4.8 points), Samsung (4.5); computer makers Dell (4.3 points), and Acer (4.2).

The others were Panasonic (4.3 points), Motorola (4.3 points); HP (4.3 points); Apple (4.1 points); Sharp (3.9 points); Lenovo (3.8 points); Philips (3.7 points); Fujitsu Siemens (3.7 points) and LG (2.3 points).

"This is neither a harassment nor a persuasion campaign. We just want to encourage companies to move up in the greener side of the spectrum and to give consumers a guide to what is and what's not bad for the environment," said Baconguis.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Trumped-up

EDITORIAL

POWER TENDS TO CORRUPT, AND IN THE PHILIPPines as in other countries it tends to corrupt especially when it comes under threat. Consider the unfortunate Anwar Ibrahim. The once and future rising star of Malaysian politics, Anwar is now facing, for the second time in 10 years, politically motivated charges of sodomy—a crime in Malaysia, punishable by as much as 20 years in prison. This is the same charge which sent Anwar, once Mahathir Mohamad's deputy prime minister and now the leader of the opposition, to Mahathir's chosen successor, Abdullah Badawi, on just on a nine-year term.

It has been "settled" once again as it was for in only one reason: to disqualify his political career. The first time effectively shut him out of politics in the last years of Mahathir's increasingly autocratic rule; it is obvious that the second time is meant to sideline him from politics again, at a time of increased vulnerability for Abdullah.

Contrary to the ruling coalition's fondest hopes, Anwar recovered from the ignominy of a sodomy conviction and assumed the leadership of a revitalized opposition. Last March, the opposition coalition ruined the political foundations of Malaysia, winning five of 13 state governments and almost capturing control of parliament.

The opposition's victories come in a time of great stress for the governing National Front coalition and the dominant Umno party; they are weighed down by Abdullah's unpopularity (a member of the ruling coalition had even proposed a vote of no confidence in parliament), a recession-mired economy (one into which the name of Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak has been dragged, even the investigations of Mahathir as the author of judicial appointments). Taken together with the stunning results of the March general elections, the ruling coalition is in the worst shape it's ever been in since the country was founded in 1957.

Enter the new sodomy charge. Anwar calls it "frivolous and nonsensical," and lays the blame at Najib's door. It may be frivolous, but we've seen what the Malaysian authorities have done with frivolous charges before. The police say it will investigate the charge—but this is the same police who fabricated the first charge and beat Anwar when he was in jail. We will not await the results of their investigation with bated breath.

The international community sees through this charade, and we hope the majority of Malaysians do too. The filing of the new charge is a corruption, a deliberate abuse, of the justice system—unfortunately an official crime we are all too familiar with here in the Philippines.

Indeed, it is our sorry experience with the politicization of the administration of justice under Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno that allows us to recognize, with a dawning sense of horror, exactly what is happening to the leader of the Malaysian opposition. The authorities, unnerved by the prospect of a change in power, have Anwar in their sights.

Anwar is a friend of the Philippines, an avid student of Rizal and an articulate voice of moderate Islam. Like Ninoy Aquino, he has been given the opportunity to suffer for his political convictions. His years in jail, too, included subtle and overt forms of abuse. (He had to write a tacit hunger strike, because of a beating he endured in prison.) In other words, he is that unusual Asian politician: a martyr, and thus someone whom Filipinos can readily relate to. We also believe he will continue Malaysia's policy of strongly supporting the peace process that seeks to find a resolution to the Moro secessionist struggle.

But regardless of whether he will become prime minister or not, he does not deserve the infamy of another trumped-up charge. Indeed, Malaysia itself deserves better.

Price of indifference

FOREIGN COMMENT

ZIMBABWE IS NOW PAYING THE PRICE FOR WESTERN AND African indifference about a champion of independence (Presidents Robert Mugabe) who became divisive and steered the country into the ditch.

No one spoke up in time. Neighboring African countries are still hesitating to talk up in one strongly enough. That applies, not in the least, to South Africa, where many from Zimbabwe have sought refuge. Many of them suffer violence from poor South Africans who see them as a threat to their jobs.

The only hope is that the SADC (Southern African Development Community) summit on stronger measures against the Mugabe regime and lay the groundwork for the time after he is gone.

At some time or another, his time will be over. That time is approaching fast. (Aftenposten (Oslo, Norway)

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How about workers abused by their employers?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

FORGOTTEN DURING THE FORUM ON JUSTice is the exceedingly slow wheels of justice. A simple case takes years to decide; a complex one takes forever. Take the cases against the Marcoses. Four presidents have succeeded Marcos and the cases are far from finished. Access to the courts is good, but what good is access if the courts take forever to decide cases?

Ironically, it is the Supreme Court itself that sometimes takes longest to hand down indecisions. Almost all cases are now appealed to the Court of Appeals then to the Supreme Court. And there they can sleep for years, sometimes on a mere technicality.

Let's not talk about murder cases where the penalty can be a lifetime in prison; let's talk about simple labor cases where the items to be simple as whether a worker loses his job or not or getting only an abusive employer. Labor cases should not be decided but because for each day that the employee is out of work, his family doesn't eat.

The National Labor Relations Commission was set up to constantly in labor cases. The key word here is "summary"—the quick resolution of cases, never mind legalistic hesitations or the rules of court. An arbiter is mandated to try to arrange an amicable settlement between the employer and the employee before going to a formal hearing, to make a resolution even faster. And he has a limited time to decide a case.

But after the arbiter decides a case, the losing party can appeal to the NLRC. There are a number of three commissioners take their own sweet time going over the case and coming to a decision. Then the losing party can appeal to the NLRC en banc, then to the Court of Appeals and, if he still loses, he goes up to the Supreme Court.

It is in the appellate courts where delays are notable but aging justices, with no higher courts bestriding down their necks, take the most leisurely of times to review the cases almost always it takes many years before the Supreme Court can decide labor cases. By that time, the worker's family has long been dead from starvation or has lost interest, the reason employers delay cases for as long as possible.

If by a miracle the Court decides a case while the worker is still alive, it goes back to the NLRC and then back to the arbiter for implementation. The arbiter then sends it to the sheriff for execution. The sheriff asks the worker for a P5,000 fee (if he is out of work, where will he get the P5,000?). Then the sheriff takes forever to collect whatever is due to the worker. After he does collect, his lawyer gets a commission. By that time, at least five years will have elapsed. During those years, it was as if no labor law no protect the worker from abusive employers existed.

Quite often, even a victory means nothing if by the time the decision is executed, the company has disbanded or is bankrupt, or is refuses to pay or to reinstate the employee. If it does, the employee is harassed and pressured so that he is forced to leave within a few months. The labor laws are so full of loopholes that the unscrupulous employer can harass an employee without violating the law.

Take the case of Boracay Island. Even though the NLRC has ordered employers to deposit with the NLRC bonds equal to the amount asked by the employee to make sure that the latter will have something to collect when his case is finally decided, that schedule has been ignored by employers. In this case the employees can ask the NLRC to enforce the amount of the bond—and the NLRC almost always agrees. Thus by the time the case is finished and the employee is ordered to pay his worker, the bond is only a very small part of the original amount. Most of the time, that's all the employee gets, as the sheriff is either unable or unwilling (or bribed) to take the trouble to attach some of the employer's properties to pay for the balance.

On the subject of bribery, SLRC commissioners are not immune to it. Pro-labor decisions of the arbiters are sometimes overturned by the SLRC when the prize is right. And the cynics out there that the lawyers of the workers themselves (who get paid only when they win a case) are sometimes bribed by the employer to lose a case. Many employers would rather pay more for before than pay an employee out of their pocket, or so they can claim that they did lose case to case and want other employers.

Labor lawyers and SLRC commissioners, as well as litigants, know all of these deficiencies. Labor leaders know them, too. Justices ought to know them also. I hope that Chief Justice Reynato Puno will focus on loopholes in the labor laws, when he now calls another forum (hopefully very soon) to speed up the wheels of justice.

* * *

Forgotten in all the relief efforts for the typhoon victims, including the victims of the sinking of *MV Princess of the Stars*, are the social workers of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). Many of them were also victims of Typhoon "Frank" but they repaired for work promptly and worked unceasingly for days attending to the typhoon victims in the evacuation centers to their own homes and families first. That's public service that should be emulated by all public servants. Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral expressed her profuse gratitude in her social workers during a press forum last week.

Social workers are a different breed from other government employees who take an eternity to do what the taxpayers are paying them to do. The administration or a non-governmental organization should make a list of government officers with the largest red tape. I have a few candidates for the list.

Censorship by subterfuge

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

WE HAVE JUST SEEN TWO EXTREME FORMS of censorship. The first was extreme in its brutality. Bart Sison, a 60-year-old newsman and broadcaster in Quezon Province, was driving his 8-year-old Camilla with his two daughters when two motorcycle riding men cut in front and showered them with bullets. Bart died from nine gunshot wounds; one daughter was hit in the arm, while the other played dead and was left unharmed. The dastardly deed then continued inside the hospital where Camilla was taken, in the words of Dalits: "No man, no problem."

The second was extreme in its subtlety. A Makati regional trial court validated the arrest of the journalists who were reporting on the siege of the Peninsula Manila after it was seized by renegade military officers. The police shackled their wrists with plastic tie wraps, pointed guns and lens from with sticks, and then herded them into awaiting buses—all in full view of the TV cameras—and only for them to be released later without charges.

Yet the court concluded: "The right of the plaintiffs as members of the press as guaranteed under the Constitution was not violated and trampled upon by the respective acts of the defendants." The order to vacate the Peninsula was "lawful and appeared to have been disobeyed by ... the plaintiffs, when they intentionally refused to leave the hotel premises." Hence, although no appropriate criminal charge under Article 131 of the Revised Penal Code, which is applicable to all, including the media personalities, could have been initiated against them.

Ah, there's the rub. "Applicable to all, including the media personalities." It is elementary that the Constitution actually singles out the press for special solicitude, and that is why the Bill of Rights talks of "the freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press." The court might have thought that its task was confined merely to determining whether all the elements of a crime punishable under the Revised Penal Code were present. But what a constitutional right is at stake, that is not enough. In addition, the court must ascertain as well whether a prosecution might be politically motivated, in accordance with the principle of constitutional supremacy over the bill of rights provided over a statutory code.

There is absolutely nothing new in what I'm saying. Let's take the long-standing ban on defamation. Libel is a crime under the Revised Penal Code, and it is also a crime under the government against the Peninsula journalists. Defamatory speech is not protected speech. That much is in the books.

Yet, look at how American and Philippine courts have misinterpreted that crime. They have adopted what is now called the New York Times v. Sullivan rule. When the complainant is a public officer, he must meet a higher threshold and must prove that the defamer was motivated by actual malice. In other words, did the courts automatically apply the statutory ban on defamation, as it were, "applicable to all" and regardless of the circumstances? No, instead, the courts reconciled the statutory proscription for repression with the constitutional protection for speech.

In this case, the court should have plowed through the drafting—and drafts—language of the rules. This ban is now a game of subterfuge from the beginning. Were the court to be solicitous with the language of the Revised Penal Code, we should ask: How did the journalists "resist or seriously disobey any person in authority"? (RULE 39, Director Ocampo Section himself would sometimes use the words "request" or "request appeals ... to leave the hotel premises." If the court found that there was a "police order [to] result in accordance [with] police procedure."

After finding "request/appeal/order," the court would then have to find that the journalists "resisted" or "seriously disobeyed" it. Did they? Did they refuse to leave? Did they refuse to obey? Did they refuse to leave? Did they refuse to obey? Did they refuse to leave? Did they refuse to obey

Setbacks for media

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

IN A SPATE OF FOUR WEEKS LAST JUNE, THE Philippine media suffered setbacks from duty-bound to regional trial courts that tended to undermine the freedom of the press and to reinforce the police powers of the state in restricting the scope of press coverage of events disruptive of public order.

On June 20, a Makati regional trial court dismissed charges laid by journalists and media organizations against security officials over the arrest of 30 media workers covering the opening of numerous soldiers of the Scout Ranger Battalion in November last year. RTC Judge Reynaldo Legaspi held that the officials justified the arrest of the journalists who refused to heed orders of police authorities to leave the hotel premises by their 3 p.m. deadline, and that the media workers violated the organizations' re-setting a dangerous precedent that restricts movements of media to cover inclusive events from an objective perspective.

This decision followed a verdict handed down by another Makati regional trial court on June 2, awarding only P100,000 to Marlon Ramos, publisher of the defunct tri-weekly Tonite newspaper, over an article her paper published on June 28, 2003, accusing a group of lawyers from the Villar and Cruz Marcelo and Angangco law offices of alleged graft or corrupt practices by taking advantage of the client's allegedly close relationship with President Macapagal-Arroyo to influence the government to render a decision favorable to one of the parties involved in the construction of Skyland Terminal 3. The offending article was titled "Fixers Partners Ensure Victory for AIDC," referring to the Asian Economic Integrated Corp.

It is not the purpose of this article to examine the legal points of the decision, which are already publicly known. Instead we will highlight the points that, first, the decision has applied a lowly debtor-to-journalists' and legislative circles' view solemnized by media organizations to censure the criminal penalty for libel from the penal code, and, second, that the decision underscores a reverse tendency of our trial courts to become hostile to journalists accused of libel.

The Olivares case stands out for its eye-catchingly harsh decision. The court sentenced Ordonez to a maximum of two years, 10 months and six days in prison, and pay the complainants P10,752,15, plus interest, for actual damages, as well as P5 million in moral damages, considering the professional standing in society of the group of lawyers she had libeled. The criminal penalty and civil damages awarded to the complainants were considered so legal circles as extraordinarily high for a libel case in the Philippines.

The judge slapped the severest penalties under the penal code despite a memorandum issued by the Supreme Court on Jan. 31, 2008, expressing preference for the imposition of a fine rather than imprisonment. The judge, in justifying the final decision, pointed out that the accused abused the court, in the exercise of sound discretion, the option to impose imprisonment as a penalty, "when over the imposition of a fine alone would depreciate the seriousness of the offense, work violence on the social order, or otherwise be contrary to the imperatives of justice."

The decision noted that in the case, "the penalty of imprisonment is proper. It appears that the attack by the accused on private complainants was calculated and intentional. In fact, on record, several articles were published by accused in a few months, constantly and incessantly attacked as private complainants. The libelous acts the accused committed are serious, considering her deliberate act of constantly targeting private complainants and her utter failure to verify false claims, it must be held deserving for the maximum of the offense."

The court rejected the defense that Arroyo, Villanueva, Joselyn Ines in the Villaraza Cruz Marcelo and Angangco law office, also known as "The Firm," was a public official or public figure. The court held that while the private complainants' former colleagues were appointed to certain government positions, the private complainants themselves remained public figures. "They remained as private citizens, not having performed any act of voluntariness that would warrant a change in their position," the court said. "With these findings, the defense of the accused that the article was fair comment as a matter of public interest cannot be upheld."

The court further held: "In any event, this court also finds that the publication of the article is attended with malice in fact and bad faith, as shown by the unrebutted evidence.

"Malice is a term used to indicate the fact that the offender was prompted by personal ill will or spite and speaks not in response to duty, but merely to gratify the expression of the person defamed... Malice is present when it is shown that the author of the libelous remarks made such to interfere with knowledge that it was false or with reckless disregard as to the truth or falsity thereof... Actual malice or malice in fact is proven by showing that the publication was made with knowledge that it was false or with reckless disregard of whether it was false or not."

The decision sees dollar-like hands for press freedom in the Philippines to remove the penal provisions for libel. Indeed, hefty damage awards are as intimidating and financially onerous to news organizations and journalists. There is no reason for complacency on the part of journalists. These decisions should put journalists on guard for things they can't do.

Zero 'basura' and cheap transport

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

EVEN AS GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE world prepare their "best and brightest" athletes to compete in the Beijing Olympics, local governments in the Philippines are exhorted to take a look at their "smallest and dirtiest" garbage sites, and take part—and win—in the "Ten Outputs Olympics."

Launched last year, the "Ten Outputs Olympics" is a multi-sectoral challenge "for devoted to LGUs whose officials have vocal, dedicated and are complying with NR 9003 (the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 [1]" as well as to schools, communities, markets, office complexes, clubs, civic groups, etc. whose LGUs may be negligent but who are doing their bit to minimize garbage.

For a fee ranging from as low as P1,000, barangays, municipalities and cities and other groups may submit their proofs of compliance with the law, including narrative essays, video, photos and other documentary evidence, to the Ten Outputs Olympics "showing size, system and sustainability of their operations." Entries will then be evaluated by a panel of "experienced, credible, and highly respected garbologists and tourism advocates of environmentally sound practices."

The LGUs and other participating institutions will compete not for medals but for prestigious "rankings," based on extent of compliance with the law, the application of the creative, segregated collection, reduced-destructive use, efficient composting, recycling, appropriate technology for residual wastes with ban for land, low cost indigenous investment, livelihood components and people participation.

LGUs which gain 3,000 points will rate the ranking of SOAR or "Symbology Grand Master," meaning it has achieved the "zero garbage" goal, since this leaves the garbage, the higher the score. Those which gain 2,500 points will rate the "GP (Garbology Master), GE (Garbology Expert), and C (Garbologist)." "Other 'prop' points will be considered in the case of tie-breakers."

All 3,016 the scrollbars among the local governments, a primer on the "Zero Wastes Olympics" reminds that 80 words has a penalty clause, and the LBO legal panel headed by lawyer Antonio Oposa will help the legal department of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources file cases with the Office of the Ombudsman against violators.

Those seeking to take part in the "GMO" have until 2009 to register, while the "zero waste" ranking entrants will be announced on Aug. 31, National Heroes' Day, with the winners proclaimed "National Living Heroes of the Environment" on Earth Day, 2009. The LBO will be held every two years, "until zero wastes becomes a national habit, a national way of life."

Major figures behind the organization of the "GMO" include Environment Secretary Lito Atienza, Mayor Jejomar Binay of Makati, Business for the Environment and Philippine Business for Social Progress, Rene de Guzman as the DBCES/Coalition for Christ, Odette Alcantara of Earth Day Network Philippines, Jose Enverso of the Zero Waste Recycling Movement of the Philippines, and Gerry Calderon representing the LGUs.

While the "GBO" is meant to draw out successful public participation in the issue of solid waste management and the quest for compliance with the law, a successful "zero hourly" campaign and war of life is seen as resulting in more economic and significant changes, among others: generation of livelihood and employment; more economy; savings in available disposal costs, health costs; earnings from fertilizer, crops and crafts; "pride of place"; and even "garbology" academic and demo forms.

* * *

Still months back, I wrote in this space about the "e-jeepney," modified golf cars fueled not like jeepneys and at the time plying the roads of San Lorenzo Village in Makati and of Bacolod on a "pilot" basis.

The tourism local governments and environment ministers were excited about the quiet e-jeepney, powered by batteries, was that they promised to solve many problems of urban transportation, including air pollution from fossil fuels.

This week, the e-jeepneys began their eminent out run on the streets of Makati's Central Business District, the result for those highlighted by the ever-escalating cost of gasoline, and running what was once thought to be a mere "green" novelty now into a feasible public transport alternative.

The first public transport system of its kind in Southeast Asia, the "Makati Green and Clean-Friendly Cities" project, promoted by a consortium of organizations led by CIBOP (Green Independent Power Producer) and Greenpower, together with local government officials, was launched on Earth Day last April 22, with 10 units of the e-jeepneys in operation. Though it was introduced early this year, the Department of Transportation and Communication released the e-jeepney guidelines for registration only last April 28, and engineers are still working on the final details of the Public Utility Vehicle Franchising Regulatory Board which will authorize the franchise and fare.

For now, five e-jeepneys are ready to ferry commuters around Legaspi and Salcedo Villages, although the total number of such vehicles has been set at 50.

* * *

THE E-JEEPNEYS even have a "zero battery" component, since the important part of the project is the establishment of a depot that will serve as a charging station and maintenance center, including a huge digester which will convert solid waste into biogas that will be used to power the generators that in turn will power the e-jeepneys.

Indeed, the biogas component makes the e-jeepneys fully environmentally compliant and beneficial to conserving the use of fossil fuels, cheap, clean and efficient transport, but also for the conversion of waste material into a source of power.

Now that's a win-win solution!

'Batuan,' civet coffee

I'M GOING TO DO A BOZO COLUMN FOR TODAY, FOLlowing up on tips and pieces from past columns and readers' inquiries.

Where else to start but typhoon "Frank" (international code name "Fengshen," which in Chinese has "god of wind"), with the country still reeling from its destructive assault? Why people ask again, don't we have an efficient warning system in place?

In a column I wrote last year, I noted that several female compatriots have requested with the Ulr Mer Office (Meteorological Office) to put up an international tropical storm notification system, including e-mail alerts. I checked through my e-mail and to date (after I got for Fengshen was dated June 18, three days before it struck the Philippines. That fact alone gives the chances of Fengshen hitting the Philippines as "43 percent in 26 hours." As the storm strengthened, the e-mail alerts continued to come in every 12 hours, until it reported a "3.00 percent chance."

The alerts are linked to a webpage, www.tropicalstorm-risk.com, where you can get more detailed information, including maps showing a typhoon's movements and its wind speed. Go to that website as well to sign up for the e-mail alerts.

With my now fairly extensive Internet and cell phone contacts, we should be able to get warnings out, every hour where necessary, with appropriate recommendations on what to do. Anywhere went on to list things living with even stronger winds than we had, but there was no loss of life (after we I know), and I'm not surprised. I was once caught in Hong Kong when a typhoon hit, but impressed with the way they had formulated several levels of alerts, broadcast on radio and television, and through signboards on the streets and in stores. As the storm worsens, you see the city getting itself, to the point where all shops shut down. You have the sense of urgency, but without panicking.

Kamagong and suburbs

From storms, let's move on to something more pleasant: food. Back in May, I wrote two columns about appreciating local food as part of our heritage. In the first column, I mentioned that I was going to tell readers where they could get lunsoy, but then skipped my mind completely when I went up to the second column. Sorry about that, but let me now explain: several factors. That's an afternoon popular among Ilonggos, to complain (unnecessarily for making stopping with a very different tangy sour taste. Until recently, it was difficult finding lunsoy in Manila, with my friends from Iloilo even actually bringing the fruit to me as pasalubong. Now, I'm glad to say, you can buy lunsoy at Thunderbird in Pasig, at SCJ Foods, which has a branch in the same area, and at Cocoy's. The lunsoy is preserved as you can use it for as long as it's kept refrigerated.

SCJ also has excellent durian. Apparently they've been able to grow Thai and Malaysian varieties in Negros. If you're lucky, you can get the fruits fresh, but most of the time they're frozen. I'm told the former tastes much rare of flavor.

SCJ also has excellent seaweed, stronger with all kinds of spices.

The final count at Thunderbird, and the adjoining food stalls, do offer local stuff which are hard to find elsewhere. Entire dishes that taste, a branch of the famous one in Antipolo, and even kakanin, like "kalamay" (I'm sounds "like" on reason, it's because it refers to some kind of cancer brew. Being vegetarian, I wouldn't taste it but it did look appetizing.

The Bigay Kita Depot has updated rice varieties and organic rice. Look for the stall with tattoos from jams and coconut sugar.

Another stall has elegant coffee, one of the most exotic coffees in the world, literally processed through the civet cat. The store finds an coffee beans, which pass through its gut and out through the rear, giving the beans a special "touch" and flavor. The beans are of course cleaned (at least I hope they are) before they're packaged and sold.

Still on Thunderbird, I was pleased and interesting the book "Share Food," edited by Felinda Bautista and Peter Francia. I had at least two copies and, as good books go, they tend to disappear, but that didn't happen in my kitchen... the books were at GF where I had recommended it to many anthropology students.

The book has a collection of recipes, with stories, capturing the joys of traditional cooking, done but essential, meaning as you prepare it, you end up talking with people instead of watching the microwave timer and wondering why it takes so long. ... I, as your dog and cat.

Vintage recordings

On to another column, and still on heritage: the CD treasure of Ophelia la Torre Balmes Tagalog and other vintage recordings of Filipino music. Several readers wrote to ask where they could get the CDs. I mentioned that I got mine from Solidaridad in Greenhills.

During my first visit there to get the volumes, I was fortunate that I had a friend with me, Jimmy Fabregas, who knows everyone around the circles. I asked store clerks about these volumes, which actually occupied several shelves. They were still, however, more helpful than the ones at the Shangri-La branch, who wouldn't have cared less about any of the CDs they had. I looked around quickly and couldn't find the volumes. Maybe they have to be ordered?

I should mention that on my second visit to the Greenhills Antonian shop, I found CDs of Lucio San Pedro and Antonio Buenaventura, two Filipino classical composers. Gerard Salonga put out the CDs, performed by a complete symphony orchestra with choral support.

I haven't been able to visit other music shops but I suspect there will be others in the vicinity of retained CDs that they have, and on how well retained the sales clerks are to find their stocks. If your neighborhood shop doesn't carry the CDs, then tell them you want them to. The printers come mainly from Aquarius. Unfortunately, I don't have its address. Advice to Aquarius: you should put your contact information on your products.

CD stores that don't have these treasures are missing out on potential sales. I've had inquiries from young and old readers alike, and from overseas Filipinos. If there are overseas Filipino store owners who check the CDs in your PH spaces grocery or shop... in Milan or Macau, Sydney or San Pedro—do drop me a line and I'll mention you in a future column.

One Filipino reader in more than also asked if there was an Internet site where you could get the music online. As far as I know no one has set up such a site for Filipino music. There are so many overseas Filipinos out there who miss hybrids and Pilipinas Times.

Email: mom@inquirer.com.ph

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

Inside view of the struggle for independence

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE PHILIPPINES celebrated Independence Day on July 4, just like the United States of America. Had President Diosdado Macapagal not moved the date from July 4 to June 12, our attention would go back only to 1946 when, after the end of the Second World War II, the United States finally "recognized" the independence of the Philippines. With the stroke of Macapagal's pen our memories go further to June 12, 1898, thus making us remember the Philippine Revolution and the Philippine-American War.

When I ask young officers of our Armed Forces what they learned about the Revolution in the Philippine Military Academy, I'm told that there is not much detail. As expected, they know the outcome but do not know how the battles were fought.

As a historian, I'm interested in getting military opinion on the Battle of Manila in 1521. Was the fight between Magellan and Lapu-Lapu predictable? Would the outcome have been different if the battle was fought at another time, or if both parties—native Filipinos and Spaniards—had the benefit of Firepower in 1898... would modern Southern have succeeded with fewer casualties if he had fought another day or changed tactics?

The so-called "Philippine insurgent Records" now in the National Library contains many documents that can help us in the study of the history of the struggle for independence. Various reports tell us how much was spent on the campaigns, what weapons they used, even the food they ate. The correspondence between Emilio Aguinaldo and his generals tell us how the war was fought, and the papers of Apolinario Mabini show us the political and diplomatic side of the birth of the First Republic. All these papers lie in the library waiting for historians to read and analyze them so that we can have a clearer picture of the past.

For those who are too lazy to open the documented home and struggle with crypto penmanship you must not be frightened: you must remember to be among learned as all Tagalogs or Filipinos ought to be. In case of bothersomeness by the enemy's reports one soldiers must be fair on the ground and then themselves in the trenches; they should not only themselves to the enemy's fire as segregate in groups of more than ten.

"They must also not until the enemy's forces shall have landed before they attack them. They must not be afraid of the rifle fire nor the bursting of the enemy, inasmuch as we are fighting their own land. Finally, they must remember that they are not to differ from them, and at the same time so greatly outnumber them."

Aguinaldo's instructions give us an idea of the way the battles were fought and more importantly emphasize both their strengths and weaknesses. Aguinaldo's instructions to his generals on the three retaining away at the first sign of cannon or gunfire. Its instructs were difficult to retain discretion, especially those who can away with much needed guns and ammunition.

Reading these letters nevertheless makes me realize that the Tagalog or Filipino has always been a fighter. When Aguinaldo describes his situation, saying he is like a sick, disabled crab, I wonder what exact word he used.

Aguinaldo's men were short of guns and ammunition, so they had to surprise the enemy under cover of darkness, using bolos, arrows, lances and whatever weapons they could get their hands on. Aguinaldo's men aside for the first bloodied in the fight.

With all this material at hand, our history can be a very exciting narrative indeed.

* * *

Comments are welcome at *mom@inquirer.com.ph*

A welcome morning distraction

THIS IS ABOUT A SMALL WORship-site hard-ridden but heroic doing a marvelous job to ease the trauma of Zamboanga City where I am based at present.

When I was assigned here in 2002, it never occurred to me that I will see a small wonder of a martial like "The Black Hornet" or "skin"—which has become a welcome distraction every morning from the chaos I decided to adapt to in home the town in the vicinity for invaded our office. The success has to owned by the Bangsa Samar ng Pilipinas and our NBI (National Bureau of Investigation) office in Zamboanga.

The day, incidentally, the morning of the keyboard's canary-voiced pen, the Cebu Daily News' has been wonderfully singing its congenial incantations every early morning since last April. Its song is so wonderful that despite the cacophony of ear-shattering noises from dogs, cars, etc., it sounds out.

My family encourages me more filled with anticipation of the little wonder singing his most welcome songs. It's right of God to close him never me, because to sing resumed into that our there into sounding our announce—inside from the shift to rate of chronicles, terrorists, ice shortage and the latest wrought about by Typhoon "Frond"—are such wonderful creatures in the city. What I more way to appreciate our canary to its best!

My only wish is that the owners of this bird, provide the cage in there and provide much needed sanctuary for the nice and all other bird-watchers shown to stay in the city. These marvelous creatures deserve their selves Zamboanga City just like the rest of us who have chosen to stay in the city. Those marvelous creatures deserve their selves Zamboanga City just like the rest of us who have chosen to stay in the city. I am appreciate this wonderful city's charm. Here I thus suggest that the city design the parks, which it is going to develop, to include trees within the city and offer birds will be breathed as well.

—TEODTEODULO E. BINGAEL, supervising agent, National Bureau of Investigation, Western Mindanao Regional Office (Visayas), Zamboanga City

Downside to walking: students exposed to risks

THIS IS A REACTION TO CLAUDE Bengalan-Reyes' "The Streets and joys of walking" (Opinion, 6/12/08). Here's my story as to be him, being an adult, to stand the hazards of walking. Obviously from his point of view, his current investment for students to walk home from school is possible to all well and good. But he must have forgotten the one major downside to this.

The level of vulnerability in our country continues to rise. Looking from newspaper and news programs about the heinous crimes being committed every day only adds to my paranoia as a mother. This is the main reason why I make sure that my two children (a son and a daughter, 13 and 9, respectively) are driven to and from their school, despite its proximity to our home.

Because they are small and frail, some high school students are defenseless against the will of torture in our society. I cannot imagine how a young student can defend himself/herself against such people.

Divorce, I want my children to grow up coming about the world. But I, as their mother, will never let that is done through other ways, like answering electricity and wires.

I'm not being "paranoid"—an impression which, I fear, people may get from reading this. I simply do not want to sound defensive about my level of protectiveness over my children. It's just this I don't want to ignore this major risk in walking, despite Bengalan-Reyes' consideration to it.

—GIA BIBBEL, anael-ider@yahoo.com

LETTERS

SHS in Leyte, not in Manila

I WOULD LIKE TO CALL ATTENtion to the joint advertisement appearing the "2008 Search for Outstanding Public Officials and Employees, Send Windows." (Inquirer.net, 6/17/08)

One of the sent finalists in the Presidential Limited Street, Group Category, is the VP Manila School of Health Sciences (not School of Health Services, as printed).

While the School of Health for nurses (SHS) is a unit of VP Manila (where campus is along Taft Avenue, Manila), the main school operates in Palo, Leyte, far from its mother campus.

Since the ad published by the CSC Home Awards Program Inc. (version of the Civil Service Commission) solicited information, position or anyone's, about the sent finalists, I suppose it is but appropriate for the secretariat to provide our proper identity and actual location so that the general public may receive needed.

—ROLANDO G. ESMERALDA, Ph.D., professor, School of Health Sciences, University of the Philippines Manila

VP 'moved' 4-decade-old claim

MY HUSBAND, A FILIPINO VET eran, applied for old age pension under the Philippine-American Affairs Office (PVAO) when he was 66 years old. Every time he checked the status of his claim, he would just be given the runaround. But he patiently and persistently followed it up until he couldn't do so anymore because of old age.

He died on April 27, 1994, and my eldest sister, a principal in a public school, took over where he left off: she made her own follow-up, sent PVAO a number of letters, even went—but again, to no avail. Her last efforts, she received only promises and reassurances that the application was being processed.

Many years, months, days, she a principal in a public school, personally went to PVAO in Manila to do some follow-up. Also for naught. She even sought the help of some government officials, only to receive promises.

One day, I decided to take matter telling me to again follow up his claim. The following day, I called my sister Veronica (I'm about the senior of my father's claim and asked from her the application number and the necessary documents. On July 14, 2006, I then went the PVAO administration in Manila to have sept Antolino Vera Pruna's claim.

To my surprise, the Vet Pruna data gave importance to my letter and directed his deputy chief of staff, Raul M. Lazo, to immediately act on it. Less than five months later, my late father's claim was approved, the date was the result of seemingly endless waiting. There is no need to describe how grateful I am to Vet Pruna, Dr. Lazo and Ms. Lazo.

Really, the Vet President is a man of deeds.

However, as of this writing, no much has been released yet. But my eldest sister has been given a control number and asked to wait. My MAIF would receive the pension, as per order of the late Lazo, acting chief of PVAO's Old Age Pension Division.

—HENRY L. MELENCIO, 1223-A, Old Convent 4-to., Cebu City

Time to codify revenue regulations

IT HAS BEEN 10 YEARS SINCE Revenue Regulation 2-98 was promulgated, and many issuances and updates have been incorporated in the implementing rules.

I think it is time to codify and upgrade all the revenue regulations for the benefit of all the taxpayers and accountants. The accountants should do away with the inconsistencies and incomprehensions of the law as interpreted by the Supreme Court.

—ALEJANDRO M. ANGELES, 12-A Tamar St., Quezon City

St. Luke's Medical Center Global City

Now accepting medical staff membership and Medical Arts Building clinic occupancy

St. Luke's Medical Center the leading medical center in the Philippines and one of the best healthcare institutions in the world, is the country's leader in healthcare expertise and technology.

St. Luke's is the only medical facility in the country equipped with a PETICT Scanner and Cyclotron. It was the first medical center in Southeast Asia to acquire a PET Scanner. St. Luke's is the country's first and only hospital equipped with a 3 Tesla MRI, which is far more advanced than the conventional MRI. It was the first medical center in the country to acquire the Cardiac Catheterization System with a flat panel detector. Its combined Gamma Camera SPECT/CT machine was the first in the Philippines. Its Heart Rate Variability (HRV) facility was the first of its kind in the country. St. Luke's had the first operational 64-slice CT scanner in the Philippines. St. Luke's was also the first medical facility in the country to offer intravascular ultrasound (IVUS). It now has the first and only second-generation IVUS (Virtual Histology) in the Philippines.

In 2003, St. Luke's became the first hospital in the Philippines and only the second of a chain in Asia to be accredited by the Joint Commission International (JCI), the world's most prestigious healthcare accreditation body.

New world-class facility

True to its commitment to provide excellent healthcare, St. Luke's Medical Center is building another world-class facility in Bonifacio Global City. Expected to be fully operational by October 2008, St. Luke's Medical Center Global City stands on a ~1.4-hectare property in Taguig City.

Located in the heart of a fast-developing industrial and commercial hub adjacent to the Philippine Central Business District, it is the best place for a successful international practice with access to the global market and exposure to international patients.

The hospital building has a 74-storey nursing tower with 400-bed capacity and a podium that houses the ancillary services. The 11-storey Medical Arts Building (MAB) houses 274 doctors' clinics ranging in size from 30 sqm. to 53 sqm. Both the hospital and the MAB will feature retail like lobbies on their ground floor.

The complex is equipped with automatic fire detection and prevention system, back-up power generators, back-up potable water reservoir, wireless internet connection and closed circuit television (CCTV) surveillance cameras.

The state-of-the-art facility will also house the hospital's 18 institutes, namely: the Heart Institute, Cancer Institute, International Institute for Neurosciences, Institute of Digestive and Liver Diseases, International Eye Institute, Institute of Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, Institute of Radiology, Institute of Pulmonary Medicine, Institute of Radiology and Institute of Pediatrics and Child Health.

The hospital will also have 16 operating rooms, five Caesarean Section/Delivery Rooms, imaging suites, critical care units, cardiac catheterization laboratory, ob-gynecology complex, and post-anesthetic care units.

The hospital will have three patient drop-off areas, two landscaped plazas on the ground floor, a helipad structure, an escalator from the ground floor to 2nd floor providing easy access to the mother's outpatient services, landscaped decks on the 5th and 6th floors, patio has coffee shop, a fresco dining, and six passenger and five service elevators. It will also have 4-level basement parking areas with 1,265 parking slots (50 of which will be made available for executive in-clinic occupants).

The Medical Arts Building will feature fully air-conditioned hallways and corridors, waiting lounges on each floor, three ground floor outpatient operating rooms, a doctors' lounge on the 2nd floor, six passenger and two service elevators, an overpass and a skybridge connecting to the Main Hospital.

Each MAB unit has provisions for high-speed internet access, local area network (LAN), connection to the hospital's Picture Archiving Communication System (PACS), and the hospital information system, wiring for cable television/telephone and individual meters for electricity and water.

Medical Arts Building now accepting applications

The Securities and Exchange Commission has issued a "Certificate of Permit to Offer Securities for Sale" of the Preneed (MPA) shares in the St. Luke's Medical Center Global City Medical Arts Building (MAB). The Corporation is now inviting medical practitioners to purchase MPA shares to occupy clinics and parking slots in the Medical Arts Building (MAB).

Purchase of two MPA shares entitles the holders to clinic occupancy rights with a maximum of two doctors per clinic. MPA shares for clinics range from P1.2M to P2.4M/1 per share, or P2.4M/1 per 30 sqm. clinic to P5.28M per 53 sq.m. clinic, while an MPA share to occupy one parking slot costs P0.5M/1.

Medical staff membership

Prospective shareholders should be members of the St. Luke's Medical Center Global City Medical Staff Organization.

St. Luke's Medical Center Global City is inviting board-certified specialists for medical staff membership. Applicants should go through the credentialing and privileging process.

For inquiries, contact St. Luke's Medical Center Global City Medical Arts Building Corporation, Marketing Office at (632) 723-0101 ext. 4602, mobile phone (63) 922 892-1451, or email marketing.bgc@stlukes.com.ph. Check our website at www.stluke.com.ph.

Al Gore modern-day prophet

IS AL GORE A MODern-day prophet?

In Science Against God's Time (1 Corinthians), asked "Al Gore's purpose," he answered that his daughter Cindy gave him a copy of the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate "the Purpose," which former US Vice President Al Gore delivered on Dec. 10, 2007 in Oslo, Norway. The statement that "the sacred deeds of our planet through the immense challenges of rapid refusal of its leaders to take the necessary action to stem mankind from its tragic end" and "this will be remembered" is a reminder of prophecies from the Scriptures.

In Matthew 24:29, Jesus says that immediately after the distress of these days, "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken."

Verses 30, 32 and 33 of Verse 3 prophecy that the heavens will disappear with a roar, the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and every thing in it will be laid bare. This day will bring about the destruction of the heavens, the fig tree, and the elements will melt in the heat. "After we are looking forward to a new heavens and a new earth, the home of righteousness."

In Isaiah 65 verse 17, the heavenly Lord declares, "Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth." In verses of Zephaniah, the Apostle John, who wrote Revelation, is quoted: 2 Peter 3 says: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away."

In "Old Purpose" and "In The Environment Bank," Gore presents scientific evidence which has led me to a conclusion accompanies the Bible which is inspired and interpreted by man. Or is it a prophecy, are the advanced-edged international environmentalists, is a modern day prophet.

Don't miss God, tell **—ALEJANDRO V. TOLEDO, lawyer and Bible pastor @yahoo.com**

ASIAN CATHAY FINANCE & LEASING CORPORATION

Celebrates 25 Years Of Financial Excellence

MESSAGE

Celebrating 25 years is a milestone any institution can be proud of. More so since our company, the Asian Cathay Finance & Leasing Corporation, has weathered numerous challenges and changes in our political, economic and industry situation.

In these many years, we pride ourselves in having serviced the financial needs of countless individuals and business establishments who have placed their trust and confidence in us.

We thank our many clients, business partners and employees who joined us and worked together to enable this company not only to grow but to expand its horizons. We also thank them for trusting in our promise that together we can build a stable and prosperous future.

We have kept our word and will continue to do so.

Let us all look forward then to a fruitful journey ahead as our company puts into action the many plans we have mapped out to continue providing quality service at the best value.

Once again, thank you all for the support!

RUFINO H. KO PO
Chairman Of The Board

MESSAGE

Asian Cathay Finance and Leasing Corporation was founded on the ideals of being deeply committed and dedicated in helping finance small and medium scale enterprises as well as individuals in the country. For more than 2 decades, we have recognized and catered to the growing needs of our clients by providing efficient and easier financial solutions to businesses like real estate loans, automobile financing and others.

We are very grateful to have this opportunity to serve and to contribute to the growth of the various SME's and at the same time help shape the economy.

As 2008 marks the 25th anniversary of Asian Cathay Finance and Leasing Corporation, I would like to celebrate this important milestone with our clients and partners who have helped us be where we are now. On behalf of the company, my deepest appreciation to our loyal employees and dedicated marketing people, some of whom have been with us since the beginning. Your success is ours as well.

We are looking forward to celebrating our golden anniversary with you again.

VICTORIO CHUA
Vice Chairman and President

Asian Cathay Finance & Leasing Corporation was established in June 1983. Weeks after, the country was rocked by the Aquino assassination and the subsequent major devaluation of the peso. In view of these crises, coupled with the keen competition in the financial markets, many companies were unable to stand the pressure and ultimately collapsed.

Amidst its turbulent beginnings, the company started establishing its foothold in the car, truck and real estate loan sectors. From its one room office at Quintin Paredes St., Binondo with 4 employees, the officers and dedicated staff embarked on its vision to provide affordable financial services to small and medium enterprises and serve as its engine of growth and stability.

From its inception, the company has adhered to the principle of doing business in a fair and reasonable manner, with the interests of their clients always at heart. Hence, despite several coup attempts, power shortages, changes in government and strong competition, the company kept moving forward and posted positive growth each year.

Because of the increase in volume, the one room office at Quintin Paredes Street became too small so that in 1993, the company made its first acquisition of office space and moved to its present address at Unit 1603 Federal Tower Condominium, Dasmarinas St., Binondo, Manila.

As business volume increased each year, the company made its second acquisition of office space in the year 2003 to accommodate the continuous business expansion. From a staff of 4, the company now operates with a staff of over 50.

Today, Asian Cathay Finance has 10 affiliate offices located at Laguna, Batangas, Quezon, Rizal, Pampanga, Tarlac, Bataan, Nueva Ecija and Pangasinan. With these, the company has successfully extended its financial services to far flung areas, fulfilling its mandate to provide affordable loans to multiple sectors of the Philippine society.

In the years to come, we are determined to continue serving our clients as faithfully as we can and are looking forward to another 25 years of fruitful operations.

Service Awardees

MELANIE L. DELA TORRE	ROSCHELLE GAY L. MUSSA	EMMANUEL G. LAVAMANA
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Apayao girl takes first ...

From page A1

said Jingle's mother, Jasmin Lain, who makes a living back home selling fish door-to-door. Jingle's father is a rice farmer.

The 13-year-old girl from Luna, Apayao province, in northern Philippines arrived at Shamrock Medical Center in the Bronx in May with her mother for surgery and follow-up treatment.

Jingle's case came to the attention of Shamrock after a staff physician traveled to her province in 2003 with a Christian relief mission.

Jingle had never been able to walk on her own because she was born with feet so clubbed they twisted backward and upside down, forcing her to hobble on the tops of her feet with the help of crutches.

On Wednesday, doctors took off her post-surgical casts and replaced them with special supportive braces.

Then came the moment she had waited a lifetime for. She slipped her feet into her first pair of shoes and took several long strides.

The surgery, which the hospital performed for free, involved inserting screws into the bones of her feet and tendons three bit by bit to straighten them out.

When the pins were taken out, the feet were straight, but casts were put on for several weeks to keep them that way.

Dr. Terry Aranoff, her surgeon, expects Jingle to wear the braces for about a year.

While clubfoot is a relatively common deformity, occurring in about one in 1,000 births, children are usually treated in infancy with casts or braces that gradually bring the feet into correct alignment.

Aranoff said Jingle's condition was complicated by spina bifida, a birth defect that involves the incomplete development of the spinal cord or its coverings.

Doctors who saw Jingle say a baby thought her spina bifida would shorten her life span and prevent her from walking, so they did not treat the clubfoot, Aranoff said.

But Jingle's condition turned out to be relatively mild.

"She's essentially a normal child," Aranoff said. —AP

West Pointers 'welcomed back to reality'

From page A1

dazed several Filipino-American graduates.

"Kung gusto mo ang isang bagay, huwag kang maaalis sabihan (If you want something, do not be afraid to go for it)," said the 5-foot-4-inch lebanese, nicknamed "Ivy."

The go-getter in her stained Alabaster West Point's Superintendent Awards for Administration that is presented to the top 20 percent of cadets who excelled in the school's academic, military and physical programs.

Courtesy call

Along with four of her PMA "initiate" classmates, who also trained in US military schools for four years, Aduarte stepped into the office of AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Alexander Yano yesterday for a courtesy call—and to officially begin serving her country's friend Rosen.

"Welcome back to reality," a grinning Yano told the newly commissioned junior officers.

Aside from Aduarte, the other Foreign Service Academy graduates were Army 2nd Lt. Mario Francisco, Air Force 2nd Lt. Mario Mendoza and Navy Ensigns Carl Roy Cancio and John Antonio Bertiga.

Francisco, a Filipino-Iranian, went to West Point with Aduarte; Mendoza studied at the US Air Force Academy in Monument, Colorado; and both Cancio and Bertiga trained at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

They made history for their PMA class—now it has the most number of USMA cadets accepted to US military schools.

They had to compete with other foreign nationals for the slots in the renowned US military schools. They were ultimately selected through a rigid process based on their academic standing, aptitude testing, conduct, physical fitness, and an interview with the US Embassy.

Mendoza, 26, said that in his four years in the US Air Force Academy, he gained a lot of special training, such as jumping out of a plane five times, and globalization training for counter-terrorism.

Nothing beats PMA

But when it comes to "attitude and character," nothing beats the training at the PMA, Mendoza said, adding that his stay at the PMA made him "stronger and tougher."

"I would say that the training here is more hardcore. It's the best when it comes to military training. On the (US), they have a lot when it comes to technology but when it comes to attitude and character, Filipinos are the best," Mendoza said.

He added: "Even if the Filipino soldiers don't eat three times a day, they will get their jobs done. There, if you don't give them all the benefits, oh my God, you can see them complaining and everything."

Mendoza said he had always wanted to be a pilot and went to the United States with an "open mind," knowing that when he returned home, he would join an Air Force without the modern planes he had seen in the United States.

"I will do whatever work they give me at the Air Force," he said.

WOMEN ON EQUAL FOOTING. 2nd Lt. Christy Ivy Aduarte volunteers on her training at the PMA and at West Point.

Six months of sharing

The five have been assigned to the PMA for six months to share their experiences in US military schools with the other cadets.

Yano said he was confident that the "intelligence, talent, and knowledge" they gained from the US schools would be helpful to the AFP.

Mendoza believes the group's role at the PMA would be "crucial" as they would be sharing what they have learned with future AFP officers.

Mendoza said that at the US Air Force Academy, he learned to balance two military cultures, widening his perspective on a lot of things.

For one, Mendoza feels it is important for a military to be progressive and to adapt to changes.

Outspoken for truth

He also learned the importance of standing up for one's beliefs without undermining a senior officer's authority, and of valuing respect for another.

Mendoza notes that in the US military, even the lowest-ranking soldiers can speak to a high ranking official, while in the AFP, so much importance is given to the hierarchy of command.

"I think I will be outspoken as long as I would be defending the truth. I won't hide anything. But I have to always be a man of integrity. Those things will not undermining the AFP as an institution. You also have to think of the AFP," he said.

Francisco, 22, who calls himself a "mestizo," expressed hope he could inspire other mixed-race Filipinos like him to join the AFP and be of service to the Philippines.

"I know there are millions of us out there. We don't have to look Filipino. Kung ang puso mo Pinoy, Pinoy ka talaga. Di puso heart is Pinoy, you are a true Pinoy!," he said. "I hope it will inspire other members to come back to this nation and provide service to this nation as well."

Pa was an inspiration

At West Point, Francisco became the first foreign cadet to become a regimental commander.

Born in Tehran to an Iranian mother and Filipino father, Francisco is the third in a brood of four and was raised in Kuwait.

All his other siblings are studying in the Philippines and the doctors urged him to join.

Francisco said it was his father, Rosauro, a former Philippine Marine soldier, who inspired him to join the AFP.

Even as an 8-year-old, Francisco said his father had already introduced to him the importance of being nationalistic.

"He would ask me how I can help the Philippines," he said.

Calubia, 24, and Berjonga, 23, vowed to serve the AFP and the Philippines with focus and respect.

Women on equal footing

Aduarte said her time at the PMA and West Point showed her how women are on equal footing with men, even in the military.

"(Women) are very good in organization and administration," she said, adding this would be helpful to the AFP's civil military operations.

In a blog for Filipino-women achievers (bembilyas.blogspot.com), Aduarte said that her family and her country "are the very reasons" why she "has not settled to be a mere mediocre cadet."

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World oil soars to $145

[illegible] gave investors yet a new closing record for three weeks at $143.37—a full $2.46 above the previous close.

The latest spike means a barrel of crude has gone up by more than 30 percent since the end of last year, when oil was going for $96 a barrel.

In London, Brent crude futures rose to a trading record of $144.40 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange before retreating to $143.47, up $1.81.

"Even though the rise of European interest rates has been priced into oil, an official announcement by the ECB will still add momentum to oil prices," said Victor Shum, an analyst with Purvin & Gertz in Singapore.

Last technical barrier

The push above $145 a barrel was seen as the last technical barrier to prices blasting $200, to what analyst Olivier Jakob of Petromatrix in Switzerland called "the blue pigeon Sunday still fulfilling prophecy."

In early June, a prediction by Morgan Stanley analyst Ole Mercer that oil prices could reach $150 by the July 4 weekend caused the Nymex contract to jump nearly $11 in a single day.

Speaking Thursday in Madrid, Saudi Arabia's oil minister, Ali Naimi, left the door open for increased output, but said the kingdom's oil customers were satisfied and that no production growth was planned for now.

The US Energy Information Administration (EIA) on Wednesday said crude oil supplies fell by 2 million barrels last week, or about 800,000 barrels more than the prediction of analysts surveyed by the energy research firm Platts.

Saber-rattling

However, the EIA report offered a mixed picture of energy use by the world's thirsty oil consumer. Gasoline supplies unexpectedly grew by a considerable amount, and demand continued to slide—suggesting recent fuel prices are prompting a shift in American driving habits.

Ongoing rhetoric about possible attacks on Iran, the world's fourth-largest oil producer and Opec's second-largest supplier, also left the market jittery.

Fridays are worried Tehran could try to halt shipments and seize control of the strategically important Strait of Hormuz if attacked by Israel or the United States, about 40 percent of the world's sealed traffic passes through the Middle Eastern choke-point.

Iran's foreign ministry did not rule the possibility that Iran would try to restrict oil traffic in the strait if the country was attacked.

"In Iran we must defend our national security, our country and our revolutionary system and we will continue to do so," Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said in an interview with The Associated Press in New York.

Mottaki said he did not believe Israel or the United States would attack, however, calling the prospect of another war in the Middle East "ominous."

A senior US military commander vowed to ensure that the strait remained open.

"We will not allow Iran to close it," said Vice Adm. Kevin Cosgriff, commander of the 5th Fleet based in Bahrain, after talks with naval commanders of Persian Gulf countries in the United Arab Emirates.

The saber-rattling has left energy traders on edge as they try to ascertain the likelihood of a Middle East flare-up and the effect it would have on the world's already tight supply of oil.

No quick fixes

In London, Hudson conceded there was unlikely to be any short-term way to lower prices.

"I don't believe this situation really lend[s] of quick fixes . . . There are questions in the short term about the ability to meet the demand," Hudson said at a news conference.

Hudson and British Treasury chief Alistair Darling called for more transparency from oil producers about their reserves and urged the Group of Eight industrialized nations to consider how to increase oil production as a counter to Japan now vastly. /AP

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WHAT WENT BEFORE

P728-M fertilizer scam

TWO MONTHS BEFORE THE MAY 2004 presidential election, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a presidential candidate, accused President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, herself running for reelection, of "vertical vote-buying" by authorizing the release of P728 million to farmers' cooperatives to buy farm inputs like fertilizer and pesticide for their constituents, as part of the Countrywide Management Aid (SIBA) program.

Two months after the election, former Solicitor General Frank Drilon filed a plunder case against Ms Arroyo in connection with Lacson's allegation. Drilon named Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante as one of those who signed the papers for the release and disposition of the funds.

Bolante was tasked with overseeing the implementation of the SIBA project after then Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo, who was reportedly wary of the alleged graft in the project, resigned it to him.

Bolante resigned as agriculture undersecretary in September 2005.

No-show

In October 2005, the Senate committee on agriculture chaired by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. opened its inquiry into the fertilizer fund. Bolante did not show up on the first day, and flew to Los Angeles hours before the second Senate hearing on Oct. 26.

In November that year, Magsaysay sought the assistance of the US Embassy and Fedex International in locating Bolante, who was also now wanted at the Mar. 11 and 24 hearings.

Bolante reportedly arrested at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Dec. 6, 2005, but he was able to leave again on Dec. 11 on board a Cathay Pacific flight for Hong Kong en route to the United States, days after the Bureau of Immigration put him on its watch list.

The Senate cited Bolante in contempt and ordered his arrest on Dec. 12, 2006.

On Jan. 17, 2006, in a petition submitted through the Philippine Consul in Chicago, Bolante asked the Supreme Court to stop the Senate from implementing the arrest order. He said he was willing to attend the Senate hearings, but he snubbed the Jan. 31 and Feb. 2 hearings.

Charges recommended

In March 2006, the Senate's blue ribbon and agriculture committees released a report recommending the filing of criminal and administrative charges against Bolante and other agriculture officials.

The report also said Ms Arroyo should be "held accountable" for the mismanagement of the fund. Inquirer Research

Court of Appeals freezes . . .

[illegible] "The Court finds that petitioner AMLC was able to establish probable cause that an unlawful activity has been committed by the aforementioned individuals and entities and that the subject accounts are related to such an unlawful activity," said Presiding Justice Estrella Sinquez Jr. and the two members of the division, Associate Justices Lucas Bersamin and Francisco Villaruz Jr.

The appellate court instructed the banks not to allow any transaction related to the account and to submit a detailed report of their status and other pertinent information within 24 hours after receiving the court's order.

A necessary hearing was also set on July 8 to determine if the freeze order would be modified, lifted or extended.

Members of the opposition in Congress have been gearing for the interrogation of the case after an immigration court in the United States rejected last month Bolante's request for political asylum.

'I2 suspicious transactions'

In March 2006, the Senate won the AMLC's copy of a legislative inquiry report naming Bolante as instigator of the scam.

In September 2006, the AMLC initiated an investigation after receiving 12 "suspicious transaction reports" from Philippine National Bank. A Makati City court allowed the AMLC to inquire into the deposits and investments of six months later.

The AMLC then sent 1,696 letters to the various banks and financial institutions inquiring them to submit copies of the transactions made by the covered accounts and other related web of accounts.

It remains to be known how much money, if any, is left in the accounts.

12 accounts named Bordios

The Court of Appeals cited an AMLC finding that in the PNB accounts alone, a firm identified as Lindblood Corp. where Bolante was acting chair, transferred in April 2004 the sum of P172.8 million in the accounts of Mahagna Foundation Inc. At other P40 million was transferred to the account of the Assembly of Christian Servants (AGS) Foundation Inc.

Mahagna then transferred P30 million to the AGS account. As found by PNB, the transactions had "no underlying legal or trade obligations, purpose of economic justification" and were "not commensurate with the business or financial capacity" of Mahagna and AGS, which were capitalized at only P500,000 each.

A certain Samuel Bordios was found to be a signatory in the accounts of the two foundations. A total of 12 accounts appeared under Bordios's name and records or individuals with the same surname.

Across the NATION

NPAs raid Davao town police station

WEATHER VANE
Cows have become like weather gauges in Batanes. Instinct tells a storm is coming when their cows come down for shelter from hilly pastures in Basco Island.

COMMUNIST REBELS DRESSED AS PROTESTING farmers briefly seized a police station in a town in Davao Oriental, taking off with the station's firearms after a gunfight that wounded one policeman.

Police said the New People's Army guerrillas, about 50 of them, overpowered the desk officer and policemen who were deployed at the municipal hall of Baganga town by a rally.

As soon as the guerrillas had disarmed the police, they fled in the direction of Sitio Kinamlutan, a hinterland village in the town, where they encircled the police station beside the municipal hall.

Mayor Pedro Mejia, who was among the crowds, said the guerrillas tried to drive straight to the police station but several vehicles parked in the area blocked their way.

Mejia said he met others who saw the attack started to notice there were gunmen in the truck when some of the female guerrillas dropped their placards.

Some policemen put up a fight, exchanging gunfire with the rebels. PO3 Abdulkarim Pensan was wounded in the 30-minute clash.

Mejia said his town only had 19 policemen and up to eight were on duty during the 9:00 a.m. attack.

The mayor said the town's police force could have suffered more casualties had it not been for a town official who served as cover for the policemen who fought it out with the guerrillas.

Chief Supt. Andres Caro, Southern Mindanao police chief, said the attackers were led by a comrade Danilo Medalo, alias Commander Bordin.

The raid took place as employees of the municipal hall gathered for a religious fellowship in a building a few meters from the police station.

The rebels took six M-14 rifles, two 9mm pistols and a cal. .22 revolver.

Tony Celemenses, a municipal employee, said the rebels commanded the police officers to lie down on the floor.

Celemenses, who was in the fellowship, said the rebels asked civilians to drop on the ground. Some of his colleagues gripped by fear, ran to a rice field.

Chief Armand Rico, spokesperson of the Eastern Mindanao Command, said the raid sent a diversionary tactic that the rebels hoped would ease pressure on guerrillas who are now on the run after attacking two mining camps in Diwalwal, Compostela Valley on Thursday. —Philippine Journal Jeffrey M. Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao

DOH to maintain ban; DA to produce fish ball

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH will maintain a ban on the harvest and sale of fish from Pandacan for three months—but the Department of Agriculture said it planned to buy the province's fish supply and turn them into either fish cakes or balls.

The DOH has left no room for confusion following reports that fish from the province's waters could have been contaminated by decomposing bodies of victims of the sinking of the MV Princess of the Stars or by a cargo of the toxic pesticide Endosulfan.

In a press conference, Health Secretary Francisco Duque said the ban would stay for three months, or until the Fisheries is reformed, because the Endosulfan cargo in the vessel "poses a continued risk for massive contamination."

"Once the ship is refloated, it is safe" to catch and sell fish from the province again, Duque said.

Bantilan officials, angered by the ban, sought an investigation of whether Duque had the competence to determine whether fish from the province was safe to eat or not.

Duque said as a result of the ban, Malacañang could implement another subsidy program to help at least 1,500 families dependent on the fishing industry cope with loss of livelihood.

The could cost the government P30-P35 million, he said.

In Malacañang, however, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said he saw no need for a sediment director's banning the harvest or sale of fish from areas where leaders of shifting currents have been running up.

Yap said the DA planned to buy fish from Bantilan and process them into either fish cakes or fishballs to help prevent a collapse of the province's fishing industry.

At his press conference, Duque said Metro Manila commuters need not fear eating fish because the metropolis' supply comes mainly from Palawan.

The health department, however, issued an advisory saying that Endosulfan was so deadly that only a teaspoon of it being ingested could cause death in a matter of hours.

Local officials in Bantilan and Sibuyan Island, which was exempt in the sinking site, have declared the area off-limits to fishing.

BFAR said it will test fish samples for traces of Endosulfan.

—Kristine L. Alave and Michael Lim Ubac

'Once the ship is refloated, it is safe...'

NEWSBRIEFS

■ DAGUPAN CITY

Motorcycle assassins strike in 2 provinces

Part2 motorcycle-riding men shot and killed a councilor of San Quintin, Pangasinan on Tuesday as he walked for his wife near his business in Barangay Alac Norte.

Albert Sibayan, 38, suffered 13 bullet wounds from .45-cal. pistols, police said.

In Bataan, a town government official was also killed in his car after he became an election gunfight victim, police said.

Police said Pontian Francisco, 57, chief of (illegible)'s general services office, died instantly when six bullet wounds struck his left chest.

—Edwin Caridiana, Inquirer Northern Luzon and Greg Bahnarriza, Inquirer Central Luzon

■ BAGUIO CITY

DA seeks more veggies to keep prices stable

THE Department of Agriculture asked farmers' vegetable producers to supply more vegetables to keep prices stable.

Jerry Balang, DA assistant regional director, said the farmers had to produce more highland vegetables because of bad roads and the weather.

Balang, however, said high prices were partly due to irrational traders taking food weather as an excuse to hike vegetable prices by almost 50 percent.

"If a ton of cabbage here would cost P25, it (farm) would sell it at P45," he said.

—Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

■ COTABATO CITY

2 dead in landslide after 2 days of rain

AT LEAST two persons died in a landslide after two days of rain in a remote mining village in Sultan Kudarat province on Wednesday, an official said.

Antonio Matti-ambalo Sr., Department of Education supervisor in Bagumbayan town, said the landslide destroyed a large part of his brother-in-law's house in Dinoguhuyan, a community in Barangay Bial Norte.

Henry Albano, Sultan Kudarat provincial coordinating council head, said the dead have not been identified.

—Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

■ TAGUM CITY

3 killed in grenade attack on bakeshop

THREE people were killed while a dozen others were injured in a grenade attack on a bakeshop in Mabantenan, Compostela Valley early Thursday, police and local officials said.

Many of the victims were participants in a dance contest in a covered hall-type structure beside the Pink's Ice Bakeshop in Barangay Poblacion where the attack occurred at around 12:00 a.m., said Jennifer Echavez, municipal information officer.

Police identified the dead as Nolan Agua, 17, Revel Cangahan, 18, and Rebel Landeagora.

—Fredee Lim, Inquirer Mindanao

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Colombian commandos free hostages in stunning …

Front page A1

dozens of helicopters on standby and a strong dose of deceit: The rebels showed their handcuffed captives onto a white-marked Mi-17 helicopter, believing its crew members were part of a humanitarian mission sent to transfer the hostages to another guerrilla camp.

Looking at the helicopter crew members, some of them wearing Che Guevara shirts, Betancourt reasoned they weren't old warhorses—but rebels.

The ruse soon another trafficking—the helicopter "had no flag, no insignia." Angry and upset, she refused a coat they offered as they told her she was going to a colder climate.

But not long after the group was airborne, Betancourt sensed something was not right. Colonel commander, Alan Cossi, a man who had consorted her for two years, blindfolded and scrapped naked on the floor.

Then came the unbelievable words. "We're the national army … You're free," one of the commandos said.

The helicopter crew were Colombian commandos in disguise. Cossi and the other guerrillas aboard were subdued and stripped of their pistols.

Not a single shot was fired in Wednesday's rescue mission, which watched the world's oldest Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the four hostages who were in greatest bargaining chips.

'Almost felt there sky'

"The helicopter almost felt from the sky because we were jumping up and down, yelling, crying, hugging our members," Betancourt later said.

The operation, which also freed 13 Colombian soldiers and policemen, "will go into history for its audacity and effectiveness," Defense Minister Juan Manuel Santos said.

It was the most serious blow ever dealt to the 44-year-old FARC, which is already reeling from the recent deaths of key commanders and thousands of desertions after suffering pressure from Colombia's US-trained military.

Military intelligence agents had infiltrated the FARC's top ranks—not one but many—in an operation that began last year and developed slowly and with meticulous care, according to Colombia's top generals.

No mistakes this time

Many relatives of hostages had opposed a rescue attempt, mindful of a botched 2007 operation in which rebels killed 10 hostages, including a former defense minister when they heard helicopters approach.

This time, however, there were no such mistakes.

Through contacts that Cossi and the spies were made to believe came from top rebels, three separate groups of hostages were maneuvered to a rallying point in eastern Colombia's width for Wednesday's helicopter pickup.

"The helicopter was on the ground for 12 minutes—the longest minutes of my life," said Army chief Gen. Mario Montoya.

The agents had told Cossi the local commander overseeing the hostages, to believe he was taking them to Alfonso Cano, the top rebels' supreme leader to discuss a possible hostage swap. A French and Swiss envoy were supposed to do same. Only nothing a meeting with Cano on the operation's timing was perfect.

An extraordinary symphony

"God, this is a miracle … I never expected to get out of there alive," the 46-year-old Betancourt said after she and the Colombian hostages landed in Bogota a few hours later.

"It was an extraordinary symphony in which everything went perfectly," Betancourt said on Colombian television, her voice sounding frail but charged with excitement.

TENDERLY Ingrid Betancourt and husband Juan Carlos Lecompte are reunited at a military base after six years of separation. They have two children.

Betancourt wept and smiled as she recounted a chain of events that seemed scripted for film, complete with Colombian agents infiltrating guerrilla camps and borrowing Israeli tracking technology to zero in on their targets.

A flight carrying the Americans—Defense Contractors Thomas Howes and Keith Stansell—headed to Texas late Wednesday after being flown there directly. They were to reunite with their families and undergo tests and treatments at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

Total peace sought

President Alvaro Uribe, in a celebratory news conference flanked by the freed Colombian hostages, said he wasn't interested in "spilling blood" but that he wanted the FARC to know he was seeking "a path to peace, total peace."

Although only Colombians were directly involved in the rescue, US Ambassador William Brownfield said "those" American cooperation included intelligence, equipment as well as "training advice."

The two rebels were pressed will face justice, according to officials. But the 58 other rebels left behind on the ground were allowed to escape as a goodwill gesture, said Gen. Freddy Padilla, the armed Forces commander.

"If I had given the order to fire on them they would almost certainly all have been killed," he said. Another 10 helicopters had been standing by prepared to encircle the rebels and hostages if the rescue failed, Santos said.

700 hostages

Betancourt was abducted in February 2002. The three Americans were captured a year later when their drug aircraft lance plane went down in the jungle. Some of the other hostages had been held for a dozen years.

The French-Colombian Betancourt were a flappy connection to Bogota. She arrived in Bogota. She appeared thin but surprisingly healthy as she strode down the stairs of a military plane and held her mother and husband in a long embrace. Her two children and sister were expected to arrive early Thursday from France, where they live with her ex-husband.

Betancourt's broke into tears several times—first on her arrival in Bogota and later at Uribe's side during the news conference.

"They used the pain of our families to pressure the entire world," she said and reproached in the FARC to release to remaining hostages—about 700 by government count—and make peace.

"The people who usurped his hand theirs, I forgive them," Betancourt said of her rebel captors. "Nobody is at fault."

Thanks to Uribe

She thanked Uribe, her rival for the presidency when she was kidnapped, and said he "has been a very good president."

However, Betancourt said, "I continue to aspire to serve Colombia as president."

Before leaving Paris, her son Lorenzo Delloye-Betancourt called his mother's release "the most beautiful news of my life."

He recalled said the reunion was "very healthy and "very, very happy" but was suffered from the jungle malaria leishmaniasis and says "looking forward to undergoing medical treatment."

Congratulations streamed in for Uribe and his military from around the world, including from French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who had made Betancourt's liberation a priority of state. (See related story in The World, Page A16.)

Betancourt, a dual French national who grew up in Paris, had become a cause célèbre across Europe. A symbol of suffering, courage and endurance, she had been adopted by scores of cities.

The end is near

Many Colombians believe the end is near for the FARC, whose ranks are filled with poor peasants who are resentful of government neglect but who are solidly despised for their narcotics and political kidnappings and reliance on cocaine trafficking.

FARC battlefield losses and kidnapped chronicles have cut 9,000 at the United States has poured billions of dollars in military aid into Colombia to support Uribe.

Founder dead

In March, founder Manuel Marulanda died of a reported heart attack, and ran other top commanders were killed, one by a turncoat bodyguard.

Padilla said the FARC information who had made the hostages' release possible would be rewarded not with cash but with "liberty."

"They did it so that they and their families can have a better life." Reports from AP and New York Times News Service

SMC, Kuok set up $1-B food project

Front page A1

and "will continue to be owned by the government," Sen Miguel said.

Added: "Feeding our Future," the project will allow Sen Miguel and the Kuok Group to jointly develop lands to be planted mainly to rice, sugar, cornand soybean.

Sen Miguel, one of Asia's largest food, beverage and property tycoons, said the Kuok Group, one of the region's largest food, sugar and property conglomerates, yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) agreeing to help government in achieving food security.

Important issue

"There is no more important issue today than food security. The defining challenge of the future is to guarantee that people have access to food," Sen Miguel chair and CEO Edgardo Cojuangco Jr. said in his speech.

Cojuangco said soaring food prices were forcing more and more of the world's poor to go hungry. "Food crop prices are expected to remain at extraordinary levels through 2010 and remain high for at least a decade," he said.

Prices of food, including rice, have soared amid weakening food costs, tight global supplies, use of crops for biofuels, drought and flooding, and growing demand from countries like India and China.

Food crisis

The high food prices have fueled riots in a number countries and led to the downfall of the government in Haiti.

To ensure adequate supply, the Philippines, the world's biggest rice importer, is buying some 2.2 million metric tons of the staple this year, he added.

Cojuangco said the Kuok Group and Sen Miguel were prepared to help. "We understand that guaranteeing an adequate food supply is an important strategic goal for everyone, not just government," he said.

Sen Miguel said the Kuok Group have committed to spend as much as $1 (46) a hectare.

The government has identified three million hectares as part of the food security program, according to Cojuangco.

HEAVY HITTERS President Arroyo presides over the signing of the Philippine Food Security Program at Malacañang Palace in Manila on Thursday. San Miguel Corp. through its chair Eduardo Cojuangco and representatives of the Kuok Group of Companies of Lawrence Yap signed $1 billion to develop one million hectares to help the country achieve food self-sufficiency. AP PHOTO

'And we are ready to help our government in any way possible—whether it is by providing seed money to help farmers pay for shallow wells, basic agricultural inputs, such as hybrid seeds and fertilizers, and extending technical expertise," Ang said.

In a statement, Kuok Group chair Robert Kuok said the "use of crops to produce alternative fuels, the global rise in populations, and climate change, have all put tremendous pressure on farm lands and are changing the face of farming."

"The skyrocketing prices of fossil fuels, which affect not only farming but also the transportation of goods, as well as the rise in prices of fertilizers, have also had a major impact on food supply and food prices," he said.

The government, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Armed Forces of the Philippines, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples and National Power Corp. will identify, evaluate and review government land available for food production.

Providing technical assistance, the Department of Agriculture will determine which crops are suitable for the different types of land.

It will also help San Miguel and Kuok prioritize what sort of food needs to be planted and provide the appropriate agricultural extension services.

Equity infusion

San Miguel and the Kuok Group will split a 50 percent equity infusion in the project, while the remaining 50 percent would be raised through long-term debt issues, Ang said.

"Our priority is always rice, corn, sugar, coconut and maybe later on other crops like palm," Ang said reporters, adding San Miguel will convert most of the produce into animal feed.

"We have food mills so we can use it," he said.

Rice would be used for local consumption, Ang said.

San Miguel, partly owned by Japan's Kirin Holdings, has a near monopoly of the beer market but here it also has interests in livestock feed, poultry and hogs.

The joint venture will raise debt locally and offshore, depending on market conditions, to fund certain phases of the project.

"We can go to the market and issue 20-year bonds," Ang said.

Palm oil trader

Ang said the country would benefit from the expertise of the Kuok Group, which owns Wilmar International, the world's largest palm oil trader.

Sen Miguel is looking to break ground on its first farm rationalization project next month. With reports from Reuters and AFP

GMA, Erap in race to deliver relief goods

Front page A1

holdouts to commit goods and supplies.

While both dismissed any political motive in the distribution of relief and in typhoon victims, President Macapagal-Arroyo and national President Joseph Estrada were both said with in visiting storm-ravaged areas in Mindoro, Bicol.

Both also flew to Quezon City for most crumbled open-cock rebel.

"Hindi kami nag-compliment (We are not trying to outdo each), Estrada told reporters. "There is no political not political thing in our visit … In times of calamity we set aside politics … all should be united [in] humanity."

Ms Arroyo and Estrada separately visited the provinces of Aklan and Iloilo in a span of three days from Monday to Wednesday in tens of thousands of people made homeless by Typhoon "Frank" (international name: Fengshen) and other forms of misfortune.

On Wednesday, Ms Arroyo visited Barangay Bitabo in Estancia—only a few kilometers from Barotac Park, where Estrada and his party were handing out relief goods.

Iloilo Governor Niel Tupas, who was with Estrada, said the two convoys briefly met on their way to New Washington town.

'If I were still president…'

He said that around the time Estrada's party was leaving into a convoy of plane from Iloilo City airport at 6 p.m., the presidential chopper was also taking off from the area.

Estrada arrived in Iloilo on Monday to visit storm-affected areas, a day before Ms Arroyo came and held a joint meeting of the Cabinet and other National Disaster Coordinating Council at the Iloilo airport in Cabatuan town.

Estrada was accompanied by former Sen. Ernesto Maceda and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay. He introduced Binay several times as one of the opposition's presidential bets.

They visited the town of Alimodian, Iloilo and Oton, distributing relief bags containing rice, noodles and sardines.

After him, came she

"If I were still the President, we would have helped all of them … given them everything," Estrada said in Filipino at a press conference in Iloilo City.

Estrada denied his visit was timed to coincide with Ms Arroyo's next trip.

Ms Arroyo arrived in Iloilo with her Cabinet on Tuesday, a day after Estrada's sortie, and directed relief agencies to fast-track the delivery of goods to victims of Typhoon Isang. In the afternoon, she proceeded to the capital town of Kalibo in Aklan, the hardest hit area.

That next day, Wednesday, Estrada visited Roxas town before proceeding to Kalibo to again distribute relief goods to Pastrana Park.

'We were first'

On the same day at around 4 p.m., Ms Arroyo visited Kalibo for the second time in barely 24 hours, going to Barangay Mobo.

Tupas had as she arrived in Bogota. She appeared thin but surprisingly healthy as she strode down the stairs of a military plane and held her mother and husband in a long embrace. Her two children and sister were expected to arrive early Thursday from France, where they live with her ex-husband.

Betancourt's broke into tears several times—first on her arrival in Bogota and later at Uribe's side during the news conference.

"They used the pain of our families to pressure the entire world," she said and reproached in the FARC to release to remaining hostages—about 700 by government count—and make peace.

"The people who usurped his hand theirs, I forgive them," Betancourt said of her rebel captors. "Nobody is at fault."

Thanks to Uribe

She thanked Uribe, her rival for the presidency when she was kidnapped, and said he "has been a very good president."

However, Betancourt said, "I continue to aspire to serve Colombia as president."

Before leaving Paris, her son Lorenzo Delloye-Betancourt called his mother's release "the most beautiful news of my life."

He recalled said the reunion was "very healthy and "very, very happy" but was suffered from the jungle malaria leishmaniasis and says "looking forward to undergoing medical treatment."

Congratulations streamed in for Uribe and his military from around the world, including from French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who had made Betancourt's liberation a priority of state. (See related story in The World, Page A16.)

Betancourt, a dual French national who grew up in Paris, had become a cause célèbre across Europe. A symbol of suffering, courage and endurance, she had been adopted by scores of cities.

The end is near

Many Colombians believe the end is near for the FARC, whose ranks are filled with poor peasants who are resentful of government neglect but who are solidly despised for their narcotics and political kidnappings and reliance on cocaine trafficking.

FARC battlefield losses and kidnapped chronicles have cut 9,000 at the United States has poured billions of dollars in military aid into Colombia to support Uribe.

Founder dead

In March, founder Manuel Marulanda died of a reported heart attack, and ran other top commanders were killed, one by a turncoat bodyguard.

Padilla said the FARC information who had made the hostages' release possible would be rewarded not with cash but with "liberty."

"They did it so that they and their families can have a better life." Reports from AP and New York Times News Service

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Siargao: Surfer's Paradise

by Aaron R. Vicencio

My last photo gig had me traveling down to Siargao and I was stoked to see these legendary waves for the first time. And boy, I wasn't disappointed! The towering walls of water, great earth, and the cool mix of foreigners and locals just made for a fantastic scene.

Later on, while waiting for the after-sweet party to set up, I found myself fiddling with my gear on the beach. I just had to share the vibe of Siargao, one of the most beautiful places in the country, to real time. I tried out the laptop & cellphone setup using Globe mobile internet, not really expecting it to work, since we were basically in the middle of nowhere. But lo and behold, my front page popped up on the screen like I was in the middle of Makati. There I was, surfing the net in the middle of a surfer's paradise. Fantastic!

Since then I've used my Globe phone to upload pics covering a stolen ice blender and pretty much anywhere there's a Globe signal. We're talking about easy internet access with a phone in the strangest, most remote places – which is where I usually end up, being a freelance photojournalist. Wherever my careers takes me, Globe is always there to keep me connected to work, friends and family.

Aaron R. Vicencio is a travel and sports photojournalist whose portfolio includes articles for the DOT, Adidas, Nokia, A & P magazine and Mabuhay, as well as sports photography for the UAAP and the ASEAN games.

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Aplus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

Makati owes us ₱594M, says MMDA

City execs say claim not 'real' issue

By Julie Pi. Rumbis

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY claims the Makati City government owes the agency ₱594 million in contributions for operation expenses.

Makati was reportedly behind in paying its share of MMDA's internal allotment revenue that goes into operational expenses like garbage disposal.

The MMDA made the claim after the Makati government asked the agency to account for local government contributions, as it accused the MMDA of being unable to resolve the garbage crisis.

"What money are they asking us to return to them when they owe us that much over the years since the inception of the MMDA?" said MMDA assistant general manager Ederson Fortuno.

The official claimed that based on a report of the Commission on Audit, Makati had not been remitting payments to the MMDA's Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) for some years now.

MMDA's charter

Under the MMDA charter, Republic Act 7924, all three Manila local government units are required to remit five percent of their total annual gross revenues to the agency's IRA.

The monthly contributions are to be sent to the MMDA on or before the 30th of each month. "In the case of Makati City, its mandatory contribution amounts to ₱105 million per year," Fortuno claimed.

City accountant Leonilo Querijero, however, said Makati had been regularly remitting its contributions. She said the agency could have included collectibles from the Marcos period.

"The bank for the cooperatives appears to include alleged arrears dating back to (ousted Marcos' term as chair of the Metropolitan Manila Commission), and the years after the implementation of the Local Government Code in 1991," she said.

The Makati government said MMDA's claim was just an attempt to deflect the issue of the agency's "inability to provide a long term solution to the garbage problem."

Inability to render service

Saul Jamila Villar, the city's Department of Environmental Services chief, "The issue here is the MMDA's inability to provide the most basic service expected of them, which is to dispose Metro Manila's garbage."

Querijero said that upon passage of the Local Government Code, local government units in Metro Manila stopped remitting to the MMDA money for functions previously performed by the agency but were devolved to LGUs.

"These amounts may have been rescinded or nonviolable," she said.

After the 1986 Edsa revolution and the creation of the MMDA, the city had been dutifully remitting its share of the agency's expenses, she added.

But Fortuno said the city government was behind its contributions since the MMDA was created.

Mum's the word

"We have kept mum on the IRA matter until the city government demanded that its money be returned," he said.

MMDA general manager Robert Nazareno, however, assured Metro Manila residents that despite the controversy there was no impending garbage crisis.

"The closure of the landfill was never a serious problem because, even with the provincial dumps, which was about third, the 16 cities and the municipality of Pateros have their other dumps to use," he said.

But Villar said the MMDA should not be complacent despite the 15-30 day extension given by the Rizal provincial government for the use of the Rodriguez dump.

"What will happen once the extension expires? The best thing for them to do is to find a permanent solution to the garbage problem," he said.

DID YOU KNOW

METRO Manila is the second highest populated region in the country as of 2007 with 11.55-million residents, in first place is Region IV-A, composed of the provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon, with 11.74 million. The Cordillera Administrative Region, on the other hand, has the lowest population (1.52 million). The total Philippine population is pegged at 88.57 million. *Cyril Almendrala, Inquirer Research*

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Barias nephew nabbed for allegedly brandishing gun

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A NEPHEW OF NATIONAL CAPital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief Director Geary Barias is now facing charges for allegedly brandishing a loaded .9mm caliber Glock pistol before a group of men in Quezon City.

Bernardito Lingao, 43, of Victory Homes Subdivision, Bansalangin Bagong Silangan was charged with grave threat in the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

The incident happened at around 1 a.m. yesterday. Lingao was driving home aboard his Honda Jazz when he claimed a group of men blocked the subdivision's gate at the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DWSD) building.

Quezon City Police District (QCPD) Station 6 Barias Investigation Section chief Supt. Edgardo Pantitas said the suspect told police he got off from his vehicle to ask for Melbourne Tapao and six of his friends, all residents of Bansalangin Homes, not to block the gates.

Lingao told Pantitas he brought out his gun because he feared the group would rob him.

Pantitas said that when Lingao alighted from his car, Zapeta's group scampered away. QCPD cops in a patrol car investigated the cause of the commotion and were about the incident. They took Lingao into custody. Lingao denied poking the gun at the group and claimed he never drew his pistol," Pantitas said. The police official said he had confirmed that the suspect was the NCRPO director's relative.

Lingao reportedly kept dropping Barias' name during the investigation.

Through Barias confirmed the suspect was his nephew, Pantitas said the police general instructed him to go ahead with the investigation. "He (Barias) told me that whatever was his nephew's offense, he should be made to answer for it," Pantitas said.

The NCRPO director assured Pantitas he would not interfere in the investigation.

MetroBriefs

Hotel employee held for slay

THE MAKATI Police District has taken into custody a hotel employee suspected to be behind the killing of a 10-year-old female barangay councilor early Wednesday morning, Chief Insp. Dominador Arevalo, head of the MPD Homicide division, said Michael Durana, 28, a waiter of Bacolod and member of a kitchen crew at the Makati Pavilion Hotel, is being considered a suspect "due to circumstantial evidence." Durana is one of the boarders of Councilor Jocelyn dela Peña de Leon Olivas, Barangay Tejeros, whose lifeless body was found inside her room around 5:45 a.m. Wednesday. Her throat had been cut. Police ruled out robbery as the motive for the killing because the victim's valuables, including money and cell phone, were intact. Durana was arrested after investigators noticed that he had several bruises on his arms, hands and back. Admitting his guilt to police, Durana told investigators that it was a result of a "clawing" incident involving his coworkers, police said. The trained his coworkers whom are invited for questioning, but they subsequently claimed that there was no such incident," said PCI Jonathan Rex Diamsuchan had is not apparently caused by a knife in the left thumb. Police also said that they were still checking information that the victim and the suspect were heard engaged in an argument prior to the discovery the victim's body.

Ina C. Zamora

Classes suspended in Malabon, Navotas

THE DEPARTMENT of Education (DepEd) has suspended classes in seven public elementary schools in Malabon and Navotas on Friday morning due to a high tide in the low-lying areas, in a statement yesterday. DepEd regional director for the National Capital Region (NCR) Ernesto Domalanta suspended classes in Ramon Cuenco Elementary School, Dela Paz Elementary School, Dampalit Elementary School, Navotas Elementary School, Tañong Annex of the Malabon National High School, Navotas National High School, and the Tangos National High School. "The following schools will have no classes tomorrow, July 4, due to high tide in the (Division of Malabon and Navotas automatically suspends classes during high tide when schools in its area are flooded.

Beverly C. Ramos/trainee

Crime rate down in Muntinlupa City

THE CRIME rate in Muntinlupa City has gone down by at least 61 percent from July 2007 to May 2008 as compared to the rate for the previous period. In a report to city mayor Aldrin San Pedro, chief of police Supt. Wilredo Valles said there was a total of 501 crimes from July 2007 to May 2008, a decrease from the past year's 1,301 crimes. This meant a 61 percent decrease from the previous year's statistics. The period from July 2006 to May 2007 registered a 65.24 percent crime solution rate. The Muntinlupa City Police had been previously named the Best Police Station and the Best SWAT for the Southern Police District, and the Best Women and Children Protection Center in Metro Manila.

Julie M. Aurelio

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Drums and bells alert for Pasay studies in quake drill

By Nikko Dizon

LIKING VIBRATIONS FROM drums and bells, nearly 700 hearing impaired students from the Philippine School for the Deaf in Pasay City donned their prepared duty gear to handle an earthquake situation in a drill yesterday at the launch of the National Disaster Consciousness Month.

"I can very happy with the way they got the hint," said Director Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, a guest at the event. They got out of the school in a very short time and knew where they were to go," Teodoro told reporters after the exercises.

The Office of Civil Defense chose the 333-year-old school as the venue of the activity to re-familiarize Nationwide Earthquake Drill preparation to show how even schools for children with special needs are prepared for any disaster.

"It proved special challenges," Teodoro said, pointing out that generally, students are "vulnerable and have to be trained" in reacting when disaster such as an earthquake occurs. "We can minimize the effects of such an earthquake by exercises such as these particularly when schoolchildren are involved," he added.

Yolanda Capadong, the school's principal, stressed the need such an exercise.

"Disasters come as one. Communicating with students with disabilities is difficult so we have to devise ways on how to do so," she said.

According to Capadong, the school's 600 students, from nursery to high school, practice the "Duck, Cover, and Hold" method in responding to an earthquake once every three months.

The hearing impaired, Capadong said, usually rely on visuals and vibrations they feel.

In an earthquake alert, the school's staff would start ringing bells and beat drums found in front the classrooms of the areas where students are holding classes.

In a minute, Capadong said, the students are expected to have ducked and taken cover under their tables.

The teachers are tasked to

STUDENTS of the Philippine School for the Deaf in Pasay City take cover during an earthquake drill in observance of National Disaster Consciousness Month.

literally "lead" the students, which means going to them individually to reassure them and make certain that they have taken cover.

When it is safe enough, the students and teachers leave their classrooms.

"It's important that students are accounted for and that don't panic in front of the children," Capadong stressed.

Rolando's early morning rains prevented some 10 1-year-olds from joining the drill, but the students from elementary to high school all got to participate.

Students searched from the rubbles with pride, and later told the students that they proved to be ready for any disaster. Their interpreter translated Teodoro's brief speech thanking him for his presence.

Delighted by Teodoro's assurances, the students held out their arms and slightly waved their hands—the gesture for an applause.

PNCC to challenge ruling on SLEx toll collection

By Ilya T. Ochoterra and Beverly T. Malicdal

INVOKING PUBLIC INTEREST, the Philippine National Constructors Corporation (PNCC) said it would challenge the Pasig Regional Trial Court (RTC) ruling prohibiting the company from operating and collecting toll on the South Luzon Expressway (SLEx).

The PNCC, in a statement, said it had to "maintain the status quo at the SLEx and ensure the safety and convenience of hundreds of thousands of motorists."

"Until such time that the courts decide to solve the case, PNCC will maintain order at the SLEx," the statement said.

On June 23, Branch 155 of the Pasig RTC issued a 13-page decision nullifying the extension of the PNCC franchise beyond April 30, 2007 and prohibiting the state-owned company from collecting toll at the SLEx.

Judge Luis B. Tongco of the Pasig RTC Branch 155 ruled that PNCC's extended franchise granted by the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) was invalid for violating the Constitution and the law on public bidding.

"Respondents PNCC is hereby immediately prohibited from collecting toll along the SLEx facilities as it no longer has the power and authority to do so," the decision.

The Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) granted PNCC a Toll Operations Certificate (TOC) effective May 1, 2007.

No copy yet

Although PNCC said it had "no receipt" a copy of the decision, it said "it believes that any judgment rendered by the court on the matter may still be appealed."

The Pasig tollroad reported the certificate issued by the TRB which declared occurrence until it had received a copy of the decision.

The court said the TRB overstepped its authority when it granted PNCC the temporary operating license.

Citing the Constitution and jurisprudence, the court said the power to control the operation of a public utility was the prerogative of legislature.

It said the TRB violated the Constitution and the public policy on mandatory public bidding.

The court dismissed "TRB's claims that it was authorized to grant and renew a franchise as delegated by Congress.

"The TRB is merely vested with regulatory power over toll facilities, but the authority to grant or renew the franchise of expressway PNCC to operate such facilities remains in the hands of Congress," said the court.

The court ordered that PNCC "be prevented from operating the toll facilities of the SLEx at this time."

It also ordered the corporation to hand over to the government all the physical assets and facilities pertaining to the operation of SLEx.

The South Luzon Tollway Corp. (SLTC), which is rehabilitating the SLEx and is set to take over toll collection, said it would honor the legal battle to PNCC.

"While the legal question is being resolved, SLTC will continue to prioritize rehabilitation work at SLEx," the company said.

Interconnection

The rehabilitation and reconstruction work will eventually interconnect SLEx with the STAR tollway to allow seamless travel from Manila to Batangas City.

The expressway is the key transport route of major industrial firms in Southern Tagalog, which accounts for some 40 percent of the country's total exports. The road is also used by over 200,000 vehicles daily.

The court issued the decision in response to a petition by a civic group, the Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs of Batangas City Laguna Cavite (YPES).

The YPES said the PNCC did not have any authority to operate the SLEx after its 30-year franchise expired.

4 Quedancor officials face graft raps for loans release

By Tina G. Santos

FOUR OFFICIALS OF A GOVernment-owned corporation have been charged with graft for allegedly granting P5 million worth of "anomalous" loans to employees of a non-existing school.

Officials of the Quedancor and Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation (Quedancor) are also facing administrative charges for grave misconduct in the Office of the Ombudsman, according to the National Bureau of Investigation.

Lawyer Allan Castañeda, chief of the NBI Anti-Graft Division, identified the respondents as Ray Jones and Saul Suares, operations officers; Avalon Sobejana, alleged accountant; and Joel Gagalac, clerical supervisor.

They were charged with graft and estafa under Reynaldo Yuzon and the board of directors of RDV Money Link Corporation, a private microfinancing company and one Mel Viluvia. The investigation showed that there was connivance among the respondents," the NBI said.

The bureau said the government lost over P5 million because of anomalous salary loans resulting from the release of 100 checks to fictitious people—allegedly employees of Christ the King Parochial school in Mabini City. The school is believed to be non-existent.

Indunce Baptiste and Ara Israel Villano, Quedancor's officers in charge and chair of the board of management committee, asked for an investigation of the alleged irregularities committed in 2004-2007 and discovered by the corporation's audit committee.

Quedancor auditors received 100 used checks allegedly deposited by fugitives to a bank account through a second endorsement.

The loan applications were allegedly processed by Jones, with Suares, Gagalac and Sagalongos recommending the approval.

UNIQUE PEDESTRIAN HIGHWAY

An encounter linear park lined by outdoor rooms and offices, an entire side is free of the ever-busy center of Bonifacio Global City in Taguig. Almost a kilometer long, Bonifacio High Street is a novel addition to the congested Fort Bonifacio landscape. The retail and office strip offers both shoppers and office workers a unique experience. Shoppers are exposed to both landscaping and streetscapes set as they stroll along and browse through the boulevard of stores on both sides of the park. Employees' offices are located on top of the retail strips allowing them easy access to shops, cafés and greenery. This allows greater productivity, according to Jan Ellman, head of commercial operations of Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation, the one business district's developer. High Street is also a pedestrian highway as it links the Serendra area, which includes restaurants and shops on the ground and second levels, with Third Avenue on the western portion of the 240-hectare Bonifacio Global City.

Assisted suicide of healthy senior stirs German furor

FRANKFURT, GERMANY— (AFP) Roger Kusch helped destitute Schmidt kill herself on January 10. Saturday she plans, carefully choreographed ritual was like that in many cases of assisted suicide, with one exception.

Schmidt, 79, a retired Army technician from Oberursel, was neither sick nor dying. She simply did not want to move into a nursing home, and rather than face that prospect, she asked Kusch, a prominent German campaigner for assisted suicide, for a very out.

She swallowed a deadly cocktail of the antihistamine drug diphenhydramine and the sedative drug pentobarbital at a secret conference on Monday.

Schmidt's suicide—and Kusch's energetic publicizing of it—have set off a national furor over the limits on the rights to die, in a country that has struggled with its dark recent past more than most. Because of the Nazis' euthanizing of more than 100,000 mentally disabled and incurably ill people.

Germany's conservative chancellor, Angela Merkel, declared on a German news channel on Wednesday "I am absolutely against any form of assisted suicide, in whatever guises it comes."

On Friday, five German states will push for laws to ban commercial murders that help people kill themselves. Suicide itself is not a crime, nor is aiding a suicide, provided it does not cross the line into euthanasia, or mercy killing.

By helping Schmidt end her life, and then broadcasting the details, Kusch has, in effect, hung not a tidbit. After their government official from Hamburg, Kusch, 53, said he would help other people like her who decide of their own free will to commit suicide.

"My office stands and defending is to allow people to die in their own beds," he said in a telephone interview on Wednesday. "That is the wish of most people, and now it is possible in Germany."

Kusch counseled Schmidt about how to commit suicide, but does not provide or administer the drugs. He left the room after she drank the poisonous brew and ensured there hours later to find her dead. He videotaped the entire process as proof that he was not an active participant.

Prosecutors have looked into the matter, but it does not appear that Kusch is in legal jeopardy. AFP

Palestinian kills 3 Israelis in Jerusalem 'dozer rampage

By Ron Bousso

JERUSALEM—A PALESTINIAN killed three Israelis and wounded 45 others as he rammed a bulldozer into buses and cars in Jerusalem on Wednesday before being shot dead by Israeli police who launched it a terror attack.

Mahmoud police spokesperson Micky Rosenfeld described the rampage in the heart of the Holy City as a "terrorist" act by a 30-year-old man from occupied east Jerusalem who worked for an Israeli company at a nearby construction site.

Quara erupted as the heavy vehicle barrelled along the busy Jaffa Road, smashing into two stranded buses, using its shovel to overturn one of them and ramming other vehicles, refusing one car to a standstill stretch.

Police officers clambered onto the bulldozer and shot the man dead.

The attack was the first in Jerusalem since a Palestinian gunman killed eight people in a Jewish seminary in March.

Four people were killed, including the driver of the earthmover, and 45 others wounded, three of them seriously, said Yeruham Mendelis, a spokesperson for the Magen David Adom emergency services.

He said two women were among the dead, Bat-Sheva Greenman, 33, and Hasbeth Gozen Feinbaum, 55, while the third Israeli killed was a man, whose name was not given.

On Wednesday night, 23 people were still being treated in hospital.

Police Commissioner Dudi Cohen told reporters the attack appeared to be a "spontaneous incident" carried out by a father of two within criminal justice to known links to armed groups.

He said police were examining whether the man had "received instructions" from others.

Police identified the attacker as Hussam Tarzee Dwaiat, and questioned family and neighbors in the Arab community of Jebl Mukaber where he lived.

A little-known group calling itself the Izzad Hughrieh said of the Brigades of the Liberators of the Galilee claiming responsibility in a phone call to AFP. The credibility of the claim could not be immediately established. AFP

Ex-US financier who faked death gives up after weeks on the run

SAMUEL ISRAEL III TRUCKED HIS INVESTORS, lied to tax lawyers and enlisted police flee in the end, he fictionalize his murders.

The fugitive, former manager of the Bayou Group hedge fund whose faked suicide on a Hudson River bridge and subsequent disappearance last month set off an investigation, surrendered to Manhattan Wednesday morning in Southwick, Mass., just after speaking to his mother by phone.

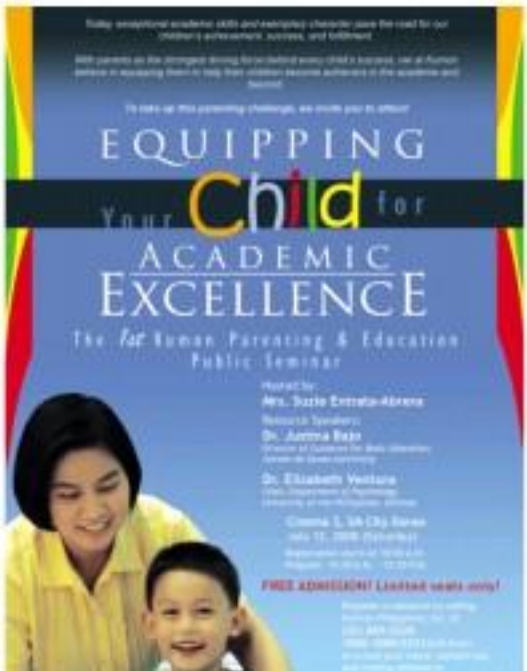
Unlike some other notable fugitives, Israel did not make it very far. He apparently spent the last four weeks living in a snowmobile vehicle at a Massachusetts campground, picking up supplies at the camp's small store.

Shortly before he walked into the Southwick police station at 9:15 a.m., Sam B. Israel informed US marshals that his 46-year-old son planned to surrender. A spokesperson for the marshals, Dave Turner, said "it appears Mr. Israel and other family members played an important role in Israel's decision to face justice."

Turner said that Mr. Israel had been in close contact for at least several days with Ed Purcell, a deputy US Marshal investigator with the Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force in Detroit.

Israel, the scion of a wealthy New Orleans family, now faces several more years in jail on top of the 20-year sentence he received in April for defrauding investors out of $450 million after the collapse of his Bayou hedge fund.

On June 9, his sport utility vehicle was found abandoned on the shoulder of the Bear Mountain Bridge on the Hudson River, with the words "suicide is painless" written in the dust on the hood. The words are the title of the theme song from the television show "M-A-S-H." NYT



WorldBriefs

Turkey detains 21 in suspected coup plot

ANKARA— Turkey's second most powerful military commander ruled for national Wednesday after two prominent retired generals were detained in a widening police investigation into a suspected coup plot against the government. "Turkey is passing through difficult days. We all have to be acting with more common sense, more carefully and more responsibly," said Turkish commander Gen. Ilker Basbug, who is the highest ranking of the military in August. (All) reporters. Police detained 21 people on Tuesday as part of sweeping investigation into Ergenekon, a shadowy ultra-nationalist underworld that has uncovered a trail of planning bombings and assassinations calculated to trigger a military takeover. Reuters

Millions of Indian truckers strike over fuel, taxes

MUMBAI— Millions of Indian truckers went on strike on Wednesday to protest against high taxes and rising fuel bills, union leaders said, adding they are meeting with the transport ministry tomorrow to resolve the dispute. Trucks provide the transport lifeline of India's economy and unsightly strike would mean that not only goods supplies but also industrial output. Diesel sales could drop sharply. "About 4.5 million trucks are off the road as part of our nationwide strike. Transportation of all goods, including essential items, has been stopped," said S. K. Sharma, an advisor to the All India Motor Transport Congress. Reuters

Taiwan man pays dearly for fiery romantic gesture

TAIPEI—A Taiwanese man's show of love for his girlfriend has backfired after an arrangement of candles in the shape of the words "I love you" started a blaze at a hotel. The couple found their room aflame when they returned to it 40 minutes after the man romanced in to fuel set the candles alight, local media reported on Thursday. "Lin was arrested by the police and later brought to trial," the China Post newspaper said. He was charged with endangering public safety. Lin, a Taiwan-based delivery man, agreed to pay the hotel over Taipei dollar NT$100,000 ($29,400) for damage caused by the blaze on May 31, media reported. Reuters

Singing dentist wins million-pound music contract

LONDON—An opera-loving dentist is to swap his drill for a microphone after winning a four-album recording contract worth one million pounds, Andrew Rees, 33, who has worked as a dentist in London for more than 10 years, was finally signed by record company Sony BMG after clinching a deal for opera. His debut album, due to be released in September, will feature operatic versions of songs like Madonna's "Like a Prayer," Abba's "The Winner Takes It All" and Prince's "Purple Rain." "This is the ultimate dream come true," he said in a statement. "Not only have I finally got a record deal, but they understand my eclectic taste in music. Who needs just another version of "Sexual Healing?" Reuters

HP Kicks It Up with "Kung Fu Panda"

Manila, Philippines, June 17, 2008 - To celebrate the release of "Kung Fu Panda", HP and DreamWorks Animation's latest collaboration, HP Philippines recently held an exclusive press screening of the film last June 16 at My Cinema in Greenbelt 3.

Attended by selected media families, the by-invitation-only press screening of the blockbuster animated film was highlighted by a short program that started with a special musical performance by Sam Concepcion. He sang the movie's theme "Kung Fu Fighting" taken from the film's original soundtrack. The teen pop sensation was then appointed as a special MTV of Kung Fu Panda's soundtrack that is making waves all across Asia.

Media guests and their families were also treated to hearty afternoon snacks. As part of the program, Kim and the 20 Best Dancers taught them the basic steps of the Kung Fu dance, following by a dance showdown of selected participants. The winner, who was determined by the audiences, received a special "Kung Fu Panda" martial arts sword. The guests also received special gift packs from HP containing limited edition "Kung Fu Panda" action figures, activity CDs and T-shirts.

HP and DreamWorks: The Partnership

For the past several years, HP has helped DreamWorks create such animated films as "Shrek" and "The Bee Movie". With "Kung Fu Panda", HP and DreamWorks continue the partnership to take animation to new heights.

"Essentially, HP provided DreamWorks with the technology to make this movie," said Jenny Dela Cruz-Simpson, General Manager, Imaging and Printing Group, HP Philippines. "Even during the pre-production stage, Dreamworks already relied heavily on HP products to solve their problems."

DreamWorks' story department actively used HP printers and scanners to make storyboards of story pitches. Instead of rough, hand-drawn illustrations, they used HP printers such as the HP Design Jet 2310 Photo Printer with DreamColor Technology to digitally create and print story reels.

During post-production, the film's animators turned to HP technology to help bring "Kung Fu Panda" to life. Over 100 HP workstations were used to make the film and solve such challenges as rendering on multiple cloth simulations, and assisting the company's motion capture lab in using fluid simulations.

Sam Concepcion with Dreamworks' Senior Communications and Regional Comm...

Sam Concepcion with Jenny Dela Cruz-Simpson, General Manager, Imaging and Printing Division, HP Philippines

Sam Concepcion and Cecile Zamoranos, Senior Director Services and personal on Screen

The WORLD

Lilac Laurene B. Evasco

Hostage rescue sparks joy worldwide

PARIS—WORLD LEADERS WERE SWIFT TO welcome news of the rescue on Wednesday of Ingrid Betancourt and 14 other hostages from Colombian rebels, with the most heartfelt reaction coming from her children.

"Mum's full on," said Melanie Delloye, as the word went to French President Nicolas Sarkozy in Paris where he thanked his Colombian counterpart for the rescue of the French-Colombian hostage.

Sarkozy hailed the "success, [a] military operation" that freed Betancourt, and called on the Marxist FARC rebels which had taken her captive to end their "absurd" struggle.

"Today there is immense joy. All of France is happy about the rescue of Ingrid Betancourt," said Sarkozy.

Celebrations broke out on the streets of Colombian cities as residents hailed the jungle rescue as a country plagued for decades by kidnappings.

Betancourt, a former Colombian presidential candidate, three US nationals and 11 other hostages were rescued from Marxist FARC rebels by a Colombian military operation all-in years in captivity.

US President George W. Bush congratulated Colombian President Alvaro Uribe.

"President Bush congratulated President Uribe, telling him he is a 'strong leader,'" after the military operation, said White House spokesperson Gordon Johndroe.

Relatives of the three US hostages—Marc Gonsalves, Thomas Howes and Keith Stansell—thanked Colombian soldiers for their rescue, their spokesperson said.

UN chief Ban Ki-moon "warmly welcomes the news" of the hostages and called on the rebels "to immediately and unconditionally release the remaining hostages," his spokesperson said.

France, which assumed the EU presidency earlier in the week, said the bloc's first thoughts were with Betancourt, but also expressed sorrow for "all those still being held hostage and their families and reaffirmed the determination to remain mobilized until their liberation."

The Vatican termed Betancourt's rescue "a positive sign" that points towards "reconciliation for a country which has suffered so much from violence," spokesperson Federico Lombardi said.

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero sent a telegram to President Uribe to congratulate him and another to Betancourt's family.

Switzerland also applauded Colombia's government for successfully conducting the rescue of the hostages without any loss of life. AFP

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34 days to the 29th Summer Olympics Beijing 2008

SPORTS
Editor Tobbyric S. Melendres Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

WHAT'S INSIDE
- Federer, Nadal in last 4 /A30

A proud country welcomes Pacman

Barako target semifinal slot vs Phone Pals

See story on page A24

By Roy Luarca

A HERO'S WELCOME, COURtesy cells and guest appearances are in store for Manny Pacquiao when he glances in today from Los Angeles.

Pacquiao, who demolished David Diaz in nine rounds on June 28 to clinch the World Boxing Council Lightweight crown and make history, will be accompanied by wife Jinkee, other members of Team Pacquiao and assistants who witnessed the fight in Las Vegas.

Other than his accomplishments and the celebrations, because to Pacquiao's mind is to be with his children, Michael, Jinkee and Princess, whom he hadn't seen since May 31 when he left for the United States to begin his preparations for Diaz.

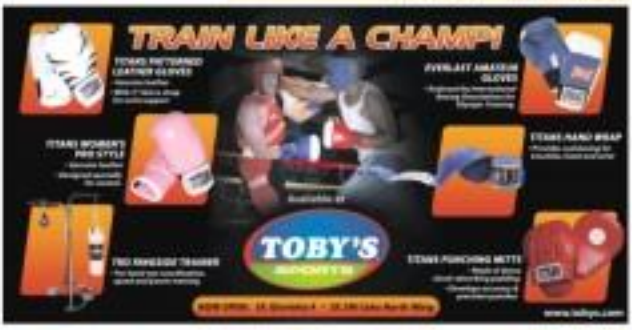
Now, Pacquiao will return as the only Asian to hold four world titles in four weight classes and the only Filipino to reign in the 135-pound division.

Among the activities lined up for Pacquiao is a visit to Environment Sec. Lito Atienza, whose he considers as a second father, a mass at Quiapo Church in Manila, a prize ceremonies at GMA 7 and a motorcade.

Sgt. Bank president Rob Icsan has scheduled Pacquiao's next fight for Nov. 8 with Venezuelan knockout artist Eckiel Valero and British super

A PROUD BOY

PACQUIAO



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PETRON

Knights test unbeaten Blazers

By Cedelf P. Tupas

A COLLEGE OF ST. BENILDE squad growing in confidence after a rare 2-0 start faces its first real test when it tackles last year's king, Realtor, Letran, in the NCAA 84th season basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City.

GAMES TODAY (Ninoy Aquino Stadium)
10 a.m. – Letran vs. CSB (w)
11 a.m. – JRU vs. San Sebastian (m)
2 p.m. – Letran vs. CSB (m)
4 p.m. – JRU vs. San Sebastian (m)

The Blazers, who already eclipsed their 1-11 record last season with a 61-54 trouncing of Perpetual Wednesday, will try to match their three-win season two years ago in the 2 p.m. duel.

But unlike their first two wins against the Philippine Christian University Dolphins and the Altas, coach Gee Almadin expects the Blazers to have their hands full against the Knights.

"It will be a very tough match," Almadin said. "Letran has a good coach in Louie Alas and they already have a system in place."

Jose Rizal and San Sebastian try to break into the win column in the second game at 4 p.m.

The Stags are playing their third game in six days, struggling to find the right combinations and losing twice in that span.

But coach Jorge Gallent can build upon the Stags' second-half output against Ateneo where they shaved crucial an 16-point lead, before losing, 66-60.

The Knights beat the Jose Rizal Heavyhombers, 83-65, Saturday, a performance that surprised Alas.

"I didn't expect them to show so much energy," Alas said. "I hope we could maintain that in our next game (against St. Benilde)."

Alas is banking on sweetener Dave Dato, RJ Jazul, Raymar Gardiner and John Mekgwire, who combined for 39 points against JRU.

Almadin is looking forward to stellar performances from point guard Rajah Montemayor and sweetener Archie David and Jacob Hindayan the skipper, who has seemed his teammates not to get too carried away by their supposed status.

"We haven't accomplished anything yet," Hindayan said. "Two wins don't get you to the Final Four."

In the juniors division, San Sebastian seeks to solidify their hold of top spot against Jose Rizal. The Staglets are gunning for their third win in five days.

PERPETUAL'S From: Dionne Dysuco [left] and St. Benilde's Rainier Matalam race for the loose ball during their match on Wednesday. St. Benilde won, 61-54.

Qatar 9-Ball: Pagulayan, 4 others reach KO round

FORMER WORLD CHAMPION ALEX PAGULAYAN downed Mohd El Ansari of Egypt, 9-5, yesterday and joined four more Filipinos from the losers' bracket into the knockout stage of the 2008 Qatar International 9-Ball Championship at the Qatar Billiards and Snooker Federation in Doha.

Pagulayan, who had to go through the qualifying tournament simplex his superb credentials, stroked his way from the one-loss side after taking a 9-7 loss from compatriot and fellow Team Sports Inc. Francisco "Efren" Bustamante in the third round.

ALEX Pagulayan

The 39-year-old reigning World Pool Masters titlist made sure he stayed in the hunt for the $40,000 (P1.9 million) top purse by trumbling the Indo-known Asad, who stunned former world champion Johnny Archer, 9-8.

Also making the Last 32, were Seven Presidents' Billie Cup Alabang leg champion Warren Kiamco, Mcliffe East-based Alex Cuarteros, Sarangani Galston and Jeff De Luna.

They joined two-time world champion Efren "Bata" Reyes and Ronnie Alcano, current world No.1 Dennis Orcollo, Raoul Gallego, Roberto Gomez, Gandy Wells, Lee Van Corteza, Marlon Manalo and Suranaanee, who advanced from the winners' row.

Barako . . .

From page A27

RED BULL TRIES TO PUT AN END TO ALL the wait today when the Bombo, already established as overachievers in the Smart Power Cup, clash with Talk 'N Text for the second outright semifinal berth at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

With a 10-6 card, Adam Pennie and the Bombo are expected to exhaust the first of two chances they have in joining idle-eliminating second-seeded Air21 into the Final Four when they collide with the Phone Pals at 7:30 p.m.

In the first game at 4:30 p.m., crowd-rising Barangay Ginebra tries to keep its usable-thin chances of advancing to the semifinals alive when the Gin Kings, on a four-game roll, battle ousted Welcoat.

The Gin Kings are in an even 8-8 card and have two games to go. A sweep will not guarantee them of a playoff for the second semifinal slot, but at least assure them of a quarterfinal stint.

Meanwhile, Talk 'N Text import Terrence Leather appeared before commissioner Sonny Barrios yesterday because of his conduct in their last game which caused his ejection. Fines and penalties, if any, will be announced today. — Mariang R. Castillo

RACING TIPS
BY TOP CHOICE
At Santa Ana Park

Pucay, Bayron catch Thai for top spot

By Herseg B. Castillo

LIPA CITY—DEFENDING CHAMPION Rhea Pucay shot a course record seven-under-par 65 and rookie Jay Bayron nearly matched that with a 66 as they tied Thai star Nitnol Arjpornsiri for the lead after final yesterday in the $750 Mount Makiling championship.

Arjpornsiri, seeking a second straight title in the Asian Tour, fired a 69 that kept him on top with a 36-hole 136 total like Pucay and Bayron even as reigning Philippine Open champion Angelo Que moved just a stroke off the leading two with a 67.

The 28-year-old Pucay played in eight birdie stretch that helped his score as he carded, eventually finishing with seven birdies against a bogey after opening up with a 71.

Bayron, the former amateur sensation from Davao, was four under at the turn with a 32 then added two more birdies coming home to find himself among the contenders for the first time in a big tournament. He started with a 70.

Que pitched up four shots in the first six holes and the country's first British Open bet in 10 years put himself in contention at 127 heading into the final 36 holes of the $50,000 event.

While Pucay and Que finished, the third Filipino contender, Jarvis Pagunsan, continued to grope for form. He failed to reach par for the second straight round with a 74 that left him 11-off the pace at three-over 147.

Bin rookie-led Thai contingent fetched momentum as only two others after defensive champion in the Top 10 with Sathapitan Poothananuwat marshalling a 70 to go with his Wednesday 68 for 138, tied with Jhonnie Enamoradar, who fired a 68.

Namchok Tantipokhakul chained out a 71 and was tied for 16th spot at 140 with Dave Stringer, Gordon Lo Ci, Gene Bondoc and Rafael Bayron, the latter younger brother, who led the amateur side of the event for the second straight round.

"I don't know, I was just hitting it straight and all of my iron shots were at least perfect," Pucay said of his stellar round. "The longest year I had was about 15 feet and I had a handful of one-footer and two footer."

Pucay said that the key to his round was playing "relaxed golf," unlike in the final round in Tagaytay when he overdrived or burned too eventually lose to Arjpornsiri at the 18th hole.

Meanwhile, Arnante Mendoza and Frankie Pilotada struggled with respective rounds of 77 and 79 at the start of the 10th Asian Golf Tour Championship co-sanctioned by Japan's Kamebi Bishops are the pros with a four-under-par 67.

ROOKIE Jay Bayron shoots a blitz that sends the Philippine championship rallying host

For the second round scores:
Philippine Golf Tour

Female lifter boosts Olympic roster to 15; tracksters Dagmil, Torres in

By Marc Anthony Reyes and Jose Mesiera

THREE WILL BE A FITTH FILIPINO ATH-letes in the Beijing Olympics next month.

Asian Weightlifting confederation Buddhan Dass has granted a wild-card slot from the International Weightlifting Federation and will become the first Filipino lifter to compete in the Olympics.

Philippine Weightlifting Association president Monico Puentevella yesterday said they welcomed the wild-card privilege although he said the PWA was actually joining up the Cambodian City Jam for the 2008 Games, more justice.

"We're just 16, and this Olympics will be a stepping stone for us when we're competing in London which is to what we really aspired," Puentevella, who is also IOC Olympic delegation chief of mission, told the Inquirer.

As expected, the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association beat the deadline for submission of entries yesterday by nominating long jumper Marestella Torres and Mestrelle Torres as the mandatory bets allowed each country to the Olympic's competitive event.

"We simply based our choices on the athletes who possessed the closest record in their respective events in the Olympics," said Track president Go Teng Kok.

BEIJING-bound: Marestella Torres

Puentevella, the former Asian Weightlifting Association president, said Dass is one of the shining spots in local weightlifting especially after she snagged a silver medal in the 53kg category during the 2007 Southeast Asian Games.

Dass went through a year-long training in Guangzhou in preparation for the SEAG in Thailand, according to Puentevella.

"Nobody expected us to produce an entry to the Olympics," said Puentevella. "But this is a good sign for other sports and also Filipinos can excel and compete against the world's best."

Torres has a two-month training in Los Angeles, California. Dagmil holds the Southeast Asian Games record of 7.07 meters the 26-year-old South Cotabato pride captured in Thailand last year.

Dagmil is currently ranked No. 40 in the world.

Wack Wack nips CJH, pads Fed League lead

WACK WACK GOLF HOST Comp-John Hay, 3-2, to keep the Group 1 lead even as defending champion Royal Northwoods ended a three-game losing streak in the 2008 Men's Philippine Golf League at various venues over the weekend.

Wins by Gerry Uy for Lopez as aggregate, Tonnie de Jesus, Hubert Lim (scramble) and Jason Bautista, Leo Mare Bona (ball) reduced Wack Wack's overall win to four outings for a three-point lead over Camp-John with 7 overall points.

Northwoods finally found its winning touch, posting a 4-1 home win over Caballeros.

Backing up wins for Northwoods were the tandems of Rudel Manguiobras/Steve Cruz, Richard Jones/Henry Jones, Jamie Fontanilla/Boy Umpoon and Edwin Rodriguez/Arnel Arbolido.

Forest Hills vaulted into the challenge of Alabang for a 3-2 win as losses behind the victories of Carlo Cachuela/Nigo Garcia, Edgar Lee/Arnold Duay and Alvin Buenaventura/Bonnie Llamas.

Orchard and Tagaytay Highlands battled to a draw with all but one of the matches reaching the 18th while the games pitting Valley against Southwoods and Sherwood Hills versus Mimosa also ended in ties.

The Southwoods/Valley 4/5 chronicled in a wonderful

A proud country . . .

From page A18

one Nicky Hayton as the leading contenders.

Also being considered are Joel Canonizado, Jean Garcianas and Nino Campbell.

Meanwhile, undefeated World Boxing Association bantamweight champion Jhonny Gil will be IDOL, said in an interview with Bohinguilla's Michael Gonzales recently that just like Oscar De La Hoya and Fin quino, he wants to carve a career for himself.

"After we said he's moving up to lightweight in his next fight, with negotiations going on between Arum and his promoter, Michael Hendin, for a fight against Pacquiao.

"I don't want to sell our names cuz I want anyone in particular," said Mabit. "If a big name fighter would give me an opportunity only to matches I would accept. I need to make our own name to know my exercises and not rob other fighters' fans. I want to give it my all to make me known for my boxing and send the fans home happy, because that's how I entertain them."

In his last fight, Mabit, who is licensed to fight in Texas and is seeking permission to fight in Nevada, stopped Takehiro Matsuda of Japan in the seventh round.

SPORTSWATCH

Rotary Golf on Aug. 14-17

THE ROTARY GOLFING PHILIPPINES Foundation of the Philippines will hold its 22nd southern leyte tournament on Aug. 14-17 at the Hubert Twin Lions' Golf Course, the first golf course in Quezon Province and the Del Monte Golf Club.

A tradition competition among 100 of Quezon's nations and a Jumpoff tournament featuring 60 of Del Monte's top junior golfers will also be held to raise up the funds, for inquiries, contact Rotary Golf Philippines at (02) 635-0000, 724-0711 or email rgfp1987@yahoo.com.

Tagaig hosts Nanasa

THE NATIONAL SMALL BORE SHOOTING THE ninth round of the Mayor Tinga Cup National Motocross Championships Sabre at the Fort Tondo Circuit in Upper Bicutan, Taguig. Joel Cabrera topped 4 events.

Leading action in the 1,144-point field with jumps and victories are top-seed rookie Kenneth Jan Antolino, Jovie Dalang, Jeffrey Manalo and Jan Carlo Medina.

For more information, call 0917-5470105 or log on to www.nonsa.org.

4-stag derby in Makati

THE 1981 STAG DERBY 1981-2008 takes place at the Makati Coliseum today. Twenty-seven 60 flights.

Entries is limited to members of the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines and breeders from Batangas, Tarlac, Bulacan, Davao, Negros Occidental and Cebu. For inquiries, call Jose or Tony at (02) 5518-6881 or 0915-5815.

Gomez paces NCFP finals

THREE-TIME NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPION and International Master John Paul Gomez hammered out back-to-back wins over fellow IM Rodo Nadera and NM Jerry Sevilla to gain the sole lead after three rounds in the National Chess Federation of the Philippines grand finals at the Mandaluyong City Hall.

Gomez reasserted Nadera in the opener of the Quezon's Gambit Accepted in the second round late Wednesday and whipped Nadera in 42 moves of the Sicilian Moscow opening to keep his perfect record.

Contributing GM Rong Villamayor and IM Leonardo Gacho share second to third places with 2.5 points while fifth Nelsky Jr. and Darwin Laylo are in fourth seventh spots with IM Ronald Bancod and NM Oriol del Cruz at 2.0 each.

Tiu eyes key drag race win

DEFENDING CHAMPION JONATHAN TIU will be gunning for a win that will extend his 6-season dominance in the 2008 Sea Mig Cebu Drag Racing Championship, which holds its seventh and penultimate leg tomorrow at the Batangas Racing Circuit Drag Strip.

Tiu has 79 points following a fifth win in the premier Quick 8 division where he shave shattered his record of 9.983 seconds.

Out to bid Tiu's bid are teammate Anthony Ko, Yasai Sawas, Eduardo Pujol, Arnold Dizon by and lady driver Rhea Dejesus.

NATIONAL RACING ASSOCIATION
The Castrol POWER1 12 HOUR ENDURANCE RACES
The Castrol Power1 Motorcycle Endurance Races were held at the 3.7 km. long Batangas Racing Circuit last May 31, 2008 with each team fielding three riders, alternating turns riding one motorcycle for 12 straight hours. All 16 participating race teams used Castrol Power1 Racing 4T and Castrol Power1 4T in their race bikes.
For race results, log on to www.motorcycleclubphilippines.com or www.motorcycleasia.com
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Team Manager: Adrian Duran
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Kawasaki
AURA NEXUS 125
260 laps = 1,034 kms.
Riders: Daniel Pesuelo, Sherry Paul Bayangos and Geoffrey Aguinaldo
Team Manager: Jonar Arriola

Federer, Nadal in last 4

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND—FIVE-TIME champion Roger Federer outclassed Mario Ancic—the last man to beat him at Wimbledon...as tonight was Wednesday to reach the semifinals and extend his grass-court winning streak to 64 matches on the first day of squall-case rain delays at the All England Club.

Riding his dominant serve and penetrating forehand, Federer put on a masterful performance to beat Ancic, 6-1, 7-5, 6-4, and move another step closer to becoming the second man in history to win Wimbledon six years in a row.

Federer served 15 aces, and finished with three straight in the final game, including a second serve ace match point. He won 83 of 71 points on serve, including his last 16, for his 30th straight win at Wimbledon.

"I'm playing great, serving excellent," said Federer, who hasn't dropped a set all tournament. "Many aces is always helpful. Some rain delays broke my momentum a little bit. I got back into the match and played really well all the way through."

Federer will next face Rhaeo Stella, who survived 18 aces and eyewame Fe. Iciano Lopez, 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (11), 6-3, to become the first Russian man to make the Wimbledon semifinals in the 40-year history of the Open era.

In the bottom half of the draw, No. 2 Rafael Nadal edged closer to a third consecutive Wimbledon final against Federer by blowing away Britain's Andy Murray, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.

"I played probably my best match for sure here," said the four-time French Open champion, who didn't face a break point and, like Federer, hasn't been broken in five matches.

Nadal, bidding to become the first man to win the French Open and Wimbledon in the same year since Bjorn Borg in 1980, will face either No. 194-ranked Rainer Schuettler or No. 145-ranked Arnaud Clement in the semifinals.

Federer was in his vintage best, holding serve at ease and gliding across the court and zipping shots that flew past Ancic or forced him to errors. He has reached the semifinals for the 17th consecutive time at a Grand Slam event.

"I really feel like I'm playing as good as the last few years," the 11-time Slam champion said. "I'm on such a great winning streak on grass. I feel so comfortable on Centre Court. My confidence level is really high."

Ancic, a former top-ranked player who won the 2000 U.S. Open and 2005 Australian Open, has slipped in the rankings over the last three years and runs into the tournament at No. 75.

The Russian got off to a rocky start against the left-handed Lopez, and was down 3-2 in the first set when play was suspended by rain. Even though he ended up losing the set, 3rd6 stepped up his game after the break and took command.

Meanwhile, Federer and fellow World No. 1 Ana Ivanovic head a strong field at the Olympic tennis tournament in Beijing next month.

The International Tennis Federation said Beijing would winners the best lineup since tennis returned as a full medal sport to Seoul 1988. AP

RP's Aunzo advances with scary 2 & 1 win

PERRIE AUNZO KNIT HIS PURE WITH clutch pars that boosted him past Jose Rueben of Guyana, 2 & 1, in the first round of the match play event of the Pinehurst Men's North and South Amateur Championship at Pinehurst, Benin Wednesday.

Aunzo, who rallied with a 69 in the final round of the 36-hole stroke play elimination to make it to the tournament proper, faces Bill Rankin in the last 32, with the 6'2"/6-inched shotmaker hoping to get past the Michigan native for a spot in the third round in the lower half of the draw.

PERRIE Aunzo

The 28-year-old Aunzo, the reigning national champion, trailed Rankin in the early going but fought back with birdies on Hos. 5 and 9 to stake control before thwarting Rankin's rally with bad pars coming home.

Meanwhile, last qualifier Adam Long pulled off the day's biggest upset when he ousted low medalist and defending champion Phillip Mellica on the 21st hole.

Mellica actually won four straight holes from No. 9 and went 2-up. But he missed crucial puts on the last few holes at the 6th, enabling the Duke University standout to down level after 18 holes.

Mellica conceded Long's final putt on the third extra hole after his broken shot rolled off the green and ended up in another trap.

Of the 32 matches contested on the famed 7,548-yard Donald Ross layout, eight were decided on the closing hole, and four more on the 19th, underscoring the competitiveness of the field heading into the second and third round matches Thursday.

Illam squads seize Aspac LL senior, junior crowns

THE PHILIPPINES, REPRESENTED BY THE International Little League Association of Manila Illam, won the senior and junior divisions of the Asia Pacific Little League Championship at the expense of host Subpat on Thursday.

The country's young batters prevailed by identical 7-6 scores and earned the right to represent the region in the World Championships set Aug. 15-24 in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

In a long distance report, RP seniors team manager Bruce Oliveros said the Filipinos exploded with six runs in the fourth inning before Subpat closed in at 6-3.

Andy Tan scored in the sixth for what turned out to be the completed run as the hosts could only get a run of their own in the home half of the inning.

In the junior game, the 12-14 charges of manager Abet Cantugal rallied from 4-6 to pull off the victory.

Cantugal's son, Charles, hit a triple to left field to drive home TJ San Juan and Leandro Banzon then scored the winning run through Shin Hahana's long fly to center field.

Then pitcher Teoyuki Horihata got credit for the victory by blanking Subpat the rest of the way.

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BUSINESS
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Investments in first 5 months hit ₱204B

IN THIS ISSUE
- Alliance Global to put up P3.8-B hotel /B2
- Gov't to rake in more VAT with surge in oil prices /B6

January-May figure up 140.5% year-on-year, says BOI

By Abigail L. Ho

APPROVED INVESTMENTS IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF the year reached P204.77 billion, 140.5 percent higher than the P85.11 billion registered in the same period last year.

According to data from the Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, these investments cover 900 projects that can potentially generate 98,432 new jobs.

The bulk of approved investments in the January-May period came from the manufacturing sector with P78.17 billion, which grew by 75 percent year-on-year, followed by the electricity, gas and water sector with P61.81 billion, a 374-percent growth from last year.

The real estate, renting and business activities sector added P38.45 billion to the committed investments for the period, the infrastructure and industrial service sector another P13.14 billion, while the transport, storage and communications sector came up with P7.33 billion.

Among the major investments approved in the first five months were the P54.38-billion naphtha cracker project of JG Summit Olefins Corp., and the P5.32-billion refloating project of Cebu Air Inc.—both from the Gokongwei group of companies.

The power sector also contributed large investments through the two generation facilities—worth P22.16 billion and P17.79 billion—of Global Business Power Corp. and the P19.95-billion power generation project of Repsol-EPC Power Corp.

Also approved were the P6.13-billion coal mining expansion project of

BUSINESSWORLD/B2

Currencies

Stock Market

Shares plumb record depths anew

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY closed 2.3 percent lower to a fresh 22-month trough on inflation worries, dealers said.

The composite index shed 68.06 points to 2,939.84, after touching 2,895.21 in mid-session.

See stock market report on Page B3

After a fifth straight session of retreat, the index yesterday finished at its lowest level since Sept. 1, 2006, when it ended at 2,929.44.

In the broader market, losers outnumbered gainers 99 to 18, while 36 stocks ended unchanged.

Turnover rose to P4.57 billion ($102.2 million) from P2.4 billion on Wednesday.

Dealers said record-high crude prices heightened worries over surging inflation and its impact on economic growth and corporate profits.

REUTERS

Peso posts sharpest depreciation in 10 months

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY REACHED 45.50 to the US dollar—its weakest level in 10 months—as rising inflation urges Asia central investor appetite on regional financial markets.

The local currency shed a hefty P0.38 from Wednesday's finish of 45.28 to close at the day's low against the greenback, while global oil prices rallied to a new record high above $144 per barrel, spooking investors further.

"It's the same story across the region," said Jose Emmanuel Hilario, treasury dealer at Banco de Oro Unibank Inc. "Everyone's playing on the inflation story."

Hilario said speculative purchases were contributing to the peso's sharp depreciation in recent days.

The peso is now trailing as in

PESO/B2

Peso-dollar Daily Exchange Rates

H1 budget gap seen below ₱41B

Both BIR, Customs report higher-than-target collections

By Michelle V Ramos

THE GOVERNMENT IS SEEN to have kept its budget deficit for the first half of the year below P41 billion on account of better-than-target revenue collections, the Department of Finance said yesterday.

The DOF took note of reports that the Bureau of Internal Revenue and of Customs—the two biggest revenue earners among line agencies—likely hit or surpassed their goals for the first six months.

Quoting preliminary data, the BOC earlier said it collected P264.99 billion in import taxes and duties in June. This brought its total collection in the first six months to P1117.09 billion, surpassing its first-half goal of P1115.87 billion.

The BIR is also reported to have met or surpassed its target of P579 billion for the first half. Official numbers will be announced in the second or third week of this month.

"Given these positive developments, the deficit could be lower than P41 billion, which was the original ceiling the government was looking at," Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran said yesterday.

Under the original fiscal program for 2008, the government was aiming to limit its deficit to P41 billion in the first semester, before achieving a balanced budget position by the end of the year. This would call for a revenue collection of P1.226 trillion and the same amount of spending.

But the need for additional subsidies and other social services for the poor this year forced Finance Secretary Margarito Teves to push the goal of a balanced budget this year to next year, set a budget gap ceiling of P75.36 bn for the year.

The DOF said increased spending for projects programs was necessary this year given threats that the sharp increases in the prices of fossil fuel and other commodities would push more people below the poverty line.

Beltran said the revised fiscal target for this year was influenced largely by the P96.24-billion increase in the expenditure program from P1.226 trillion to P1.3209 trillion.

The revised fiscal target also took into account a slightly higher revenue collection.

The government now expects to collect a minimum of P1.255 trillion, or higher by P28.6 billion than the previous target of P1.226 trillion.

The DOF said the P28.6 billion or more in additional revenue would be a result of rising oil prices.

Beltran explained that higher fuel prices mean an increase in the collection of duty and value-added tax on imported oil.

Of the total revenue target for the year, the BIR is expected to contribute P694.9 billion while the BOC is seen accounting for P264 billion. The balance should come from other government agencies and proceeds from sale of state-owned assets.

PHILIPPINES Digest Incorporated Corp. president Jose C. Magsaysay turns over to Education Secretary Jesli A. Lapus copies of the Teacher's Guides (translated into English), which were developed under the PDIC Financial Literacy Project. The project, jointly undertaken by PDIC and the DepED, aims to promote financial literacy and responsible banking among the youth.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
[illegible]

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following company-employer have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and address of Company-Employer	Name of Foreign National / Citizenship	Position
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s, please communicate with the Regional Director.

[illegible]
Regional Director

San Miguel 5-mo profit up by 200% to ₱17B

Philex unit acquires 14% interest in Forum Energy

By Jerry E. Bacas

LISTED FROM PHILEX MINING CORP. yesterday said its subsidiary, Philex Petroleum, had acquired a 12.9% participating stake in Forum Energy Plc for $3.747 million.

Philex Mining owns 51 percent of Philex Petroleum.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Philex said its subsidiary had bought 4 million Forum shares from Sterling Worldwide Africa Holdings Ltd. at 48 pence per share.

UK-based Forum Energy Plc is listed on the Alternative Investment Market of the London Stock Exchange. Its subsidiary, Forum Ltd., holds the Geographical Survey and Exploration Contract 101 over the Sampaguita gas discovery in northwest Palawan.

The disclosure stated that Forum's application to convert its geophysical survey and exploration contract into a service contract was pending with the Department of Energy.

Forum Energy has likewise acquired the Philippine oil and gas assets of Basic Consolidated Inc.

In the meantime, PEC Resources Inc., which is also 51 percent owned by Philex Mining, holds about 29.78 percent of Forum Energy. PEC is listed in the Frankfurt and Munich Stock Exchange.

As required, Philex said Philex Petroleum would soon make a tender offer of Forum Energy shares for 40 pence a share.

Further details of this mandatory offer will be contained in the offer document to be sent to shareholders of Forum Energy, Philex added.

By Elizabeth Sarchez-Lacson

SAN MIGUEL CORP., SOUTHEAST ASIA's largest food and beverage firm, has posted a net income of P17 billion in the first five months, up by almost 200% percent from P5.8 billion in 2007 on a 19% increase in sales.

"If you noticed, San Miguel today is stronger than two years ago. Looking at our operating performance, profit has doubled organically," San Miguel vice chair and president Ramon Ang said at the sidelines of the launch of Shakey's La Hood at Fort Bonifacio Global City in Taguig yesterday.

In the first quarter, San Miguel said its net income hit P5.1 billion, more than four times that of the same period last year.

Income from continuing operations stood at P5.32 billion, more than five times the amount in the first quarter of 2007 due to better efficiencies and tighter cost management across all operating units.

Gross sales also improved in the first quarter also grew 11 percent to P39.2 billion.

Without one-time gains during the quarter, mainly from sale of assets, net income stood at P4.1 billion.

Carrying the momentum of a strong performance last year, San Miguel Brewery's net income surged 37 percent in the first quarter to P2.3 billion, driven by sales volume growth of 10 percent and successful cost management efforts. Sales rose 13 percent year-on-year to P12.3 billion.

The international beer operations posted 9-percent growth in sales volume in the first quarter, with robust sales in Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam. Combined with the improving performance of Kirin-China and Hong Kong, net sales reached P63.1 billion, up 40 percent over same-ago level.

Similarly, San Miguel Inc.'s revenue grew 16 percent to P5.4 billion because of a 19-percent increase in volume over the previous year. Demand was especially strong for Gen Itimulso and Gold Blue, while more aggressive distribution initiatives and price activities helped youth-oriented Red Horse Extra Strong and San Miguel. As a result, year-to-date net income rose to P2.08 billion or by 93 percent from year ago.

San Miguel Food Group's consolidated revenue rose 10 percent to P16.6 billion. Poultry, meat, fresh and value-added segments performed solidly with meat businesses registering higher revenue and selling prices.

San Miguel Packaging Group's first quarter revenue rose by 8 percent to P4.96 billion, indicative of the recovery in demand for glass in the beer, healthcare and pharmaceutical industries. Its operating income jumped to P397 million from P225 million year ago.

For this year, San Miguel said it was expecting growth to be driven by strong consumer demand for its brands and a move to reward industry-specific growth strategy.

KHI to start pre-selling of Raffles Residences

DUBAI-BASED KINGDOM HOTEL INVESTments will soon start pre-selling the 220 fully serviced luxury apartments of its Raffles Residences in Makati City, which will be completed by 2010.

Dubbed as the Raffles Residences, the 220 luxury apartments will occupy the top 20 floors of the Raffles Hotel and are expected to generate $300 million in sales, Raffles Residences Manila sales and marketing general manager Brian John Bonnar said.

Raffles Hotel will be built on Makati Avenue corner Ayala Avenue in Makati City. It will be the third Raffles residential project of KHI after those in Seychelles Island and Vietnam.

The apartments will be sold at a price range of $225,000 to $1.8 million.

Owners of the Raffles Residences in Manila will have access to a private owners' lounge in the building and the hotel's amenities, including the Long Bar, an extensive spa and restaurants.

Last year, KHI acquired 7.377 square metre of prime hotel land in Makati for the development of two hotels. The acquisition was made through an economic joint venture which is 60 percent owned by KHI and 20 percent by Ayala Land Inc. The project was estimated to cost $132 million.

The entire project will be composed of the 200-room Fairmont Hotel, the 31-suite Raffles hotel and the 220 Raffles-branded private residences. Elizabeth C. Lacson

Investments in first 5 months hit P204B

Sentosa Mining Corp. and two infrastructure joint projects—Kalahan Development Corp.'s 19.50-kilogram project and International Container Terminal Services Inc.'s P4.46-billion undertaking.

A number of big-ticket projects in the manufacturing and IT services sectors, which would be located in the export zones and IT parks of Pena, were likewise approved.

Of the total investments approved in the January-May period, 66 percent or P135.47 billion came from local investors.

The 34-percent, or P69.30-billion, contributed by foreign investors came mainly from Japan (P22.34 billion), British (P20.86 billion) and American ($94.08 billion).

Trade Secretary Peter Favila expressed confidence that the country would be able to sustain its investment attraction momentum up to the end of the year.

Peso posts sharpest depreciation in 10 months

Peso page B2

lowest level since closing at 40.37 to the US dollar on Sept. 19, 2007. Volumes at the Philippine Dealing System fell to 3068.5 million from the previous day's 5400.45 million.

"For more or less, it will play out," Hilado added, estimating the rate key barrier at 40.40 against the greenback.

The peso has lost 94.21 or 9.3 percent against the US dollar so far this year. From being Asia's best performing currency last year, when it rallied by nearly 19 percent, the peso is now among the region's worst performers this year.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) estimated that inflation broke into double-digit levels and hit a 14-year high in June. But it also expected a deceleration of inflation by the fourth quarter.

"The market is anticipating that external headwinds [oil prices] will decline causing inflation," Hilado said. "They are watching BSP and other central banks to decisively act, but it's not as simple as fighting inflation using interest rates."

He noted that pressures on consumer prices were mostly coming from the spiraling in commodity prices, particularly of oil, rather than demand.

According to a Monetary Board report, based on minutes of a meeting it held in June, the BSP's policy-making body cited the need for "preemptive action against emerging second-round effects," while it stressed rising inflation expectations.

The agenda rides to inflation include exchange rate volatility, continuing high world oil prices, possible increases in electricity rates and petitions for transport fare increases.

Other adjustments were only provisional and possibility of higher than-expected wage hikes in regions where wage petitions have not yet been acted upon," the BSP said in the report released yesterday.

"Moreover, despite signs of moderating economic momentum, the risk is where food inflation is likely to remain elevated as world prices are unlikely to fall back to their pre-2007 levels," it added.

The BSP also took note of indications that supply-driven pressures were beginning to feed into demand.

Investors warm up to Asia stocks

HSBC cites improving market sentiment

By Doris C. Dantes

GLOBAL FUND MANAGERS are warming up to Asian stocks on the back of the region's fundamental strengths, suggesting that the massive sell-offs seen in previous months may ease, according to a recent survey by British banking giant HSBC.

The survey, which calls fund managers' investment views on a quarterly basis, indicated an improving sentiment toward equities among fund managers in the second quarter of 2008.

When asked about their asset allocation strategy for the period, fund managers moved from "underweight" (sell-down) on "neutral" on equities, and swayed from "overweight" (accumulate) to "neutral" on cash.

Only 13 percent of respondents held an underweight view on Asian equities, declining from the 58 percent seen in the previous quarter.

On the other hand, 68 percent of fund managers took a neutral stand on equities, rising from 30 percent in the first quarter.

Those who took an overweight position increased to 50 from the 23 percent of the previous survey.

"The gradual shift in views favoring equities reflects a positive long term take on Asian fundamentals," said Bruce Lee, HSBC's head of wealth management for personal financial services.

"While, in the near term, inflation, slowing global growth and [upcoming] weak sentiment, will impose pressure on equity markets, it is believed that the region will remain relatively strong on the back of robust domestic demand and continuing wage growth," Lee said. "The story for mainland China is similar—in the very near term, sentiment is likely to be driven by concerns over the government's response to inflation, but fundamentals for the Mainland remain sound."

The survey also showed that fewer managers hold an overweight view on cash.

In the first quarter of 2008, 82 percent of respondents said they held an overweight view on cash compared to only 30 percent in the second quarter.

People usually turn to cash when they become less confident on financial assets such as stocks and bonds.

The majority of fund managers were more positive on Greater China equities, with the proportion of those holding an overweight view rising from 75 percent in the first quarter to 86 percent in the second quarter of 2008.

On bonds, 56 percent of the fund managers were still underweight, the same ratio as that of the previous quarter's survey.

Those who were neutral dwindled to 20 percent from 38 percent, but those who were overweight also increased to 20 percent from 13 percent.

Fund managers were generally less optimistic around the US, Japanese and European markets, reflecting their concerns about the spillover of the current credit crunch onto other economies.

Stating the first quarter of this year, total fund outflow was estimated by HSBC at $1.14 billion, 3.5 percent lower than the previous quarter.

This development was mainly driven by a $271-billion outflow from equity funds, cushioned by slight inflows into bonds, money and other funds.

HSBC calculated the net fund flows by taking away the impact of market movements to derive a picture of investor activity in the global investment scene.

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Documents in Filipino

AT A RECENT FORUM TO DISCUSS improvements in the country's judicial system, Chief Justice Reynato Puno said the tribunal's pilot projects on the use of Filipino in the courtroom yielded encouraging results.

According to Puno, the litigants, especially those who belong to the marginalized sector of our society, had a better understanding of the proceedings when conducted in a language they were familiar with.

This statement reminded me of certain practices in business that relate to laborers or employees who have limited education or have a poor grasp of English.

The hype about the Philippines being the second largest English-speaking country in the world seems to have influenced some human-relations personnel into thinking that all job applicants are knowledgeable in the King's language.

The application forms of some companies are on a sink-or-float level made. Regardless of the position applied for, the questions are unfair and meant to be answered by somebody who finished college in a reputable school.

The applicant for an unskilled or semi-skilled position is left guessing or ticking off the box that he thinks is the correct or desirable answer.

And if the clerk who attends to him happens to be in a foul mood, he will be rebuked for giving unresponsive or incomplete answers.

Instructions

Let's assume that, despite the language problems, the applicant is able to meet all pre-qualification requirements and is accepted into the company.

On Day One of his employment, he will be given a copy of his appointment papers, a list of his duties and responsibilities and the company's disciplinary regulations...all written in English.

Unless his supervisor or a friendly co-employee goes out of his way to explain the significant aspects of these documents, the new hire is left to figure out for himself their meaning or intent.

Atty. Ernesto F. Valdehueza

Corporate Securities Edo

It's a good thing some companies know how to interpret the needs of employees who have a limited understanding of English.

Aware that the ordinary Filipino, especially if he belongs in the D or E class of our society, would rather suffer in silence than expose his ignorance, these companies conduct orientation sessions in Filipino or the local dialect for their new employees.

Some companies engaged in "assembly line" operations, e.g., clothes or electronics manufacturing, have gone one step further. They print their operational and disciplinary regulations in a language that their employees are familiar with.

The employees cannot later claim that they failed to accomplish their assigned tasks or follow the rules of conduct because they did not understand the written instructions.

Discipline

It is in the area of disciplinary action that the language problem becomes critical.

The law requires due process before an employee can be suspended or dismissed for justifiable reasons.

The base is right in the beginning of the notice of the infraction he may have committed and he gives the opportunity to explain his side before any penalty is imposed on him.

Unless assisted by the union or valuable colleagues, assuming there is one, the employee is practically left to his own devices when he receives an "explain why" letter from the company.

If the letter is in English, chances are he will make an effort to give his side on the issue in the same language, with disastrous results. Or, that his choice of words will be bad or he will be unable to sufficiently explain his position.

Of course, he can respond in Filipino or the local dialect, but how will get the better of him and he'll make do with whatever English words he can muster to avoid his suspension or dismissal.

In the hands of a skillful lawyer, a company's failure to clearly explain to an employee the circumstances that led to the loss of his job can be successfully argued as a violation of due process that justifies his reinstatement.

Separation

Let's say the employee concerned, after receiving the "explain-why" notice, offered instead to resign or retire in exchange for separation or termination benefits.

To avoid litigation, the company will, in all probability, agree to the request and give the resignation or retirement benefits.

The money will be paid on condition that the employee signs a Release and Quitclaim form which, basically, absolves the company from any claims that may be filed in the future in connection with the loss of the employee's employment.

Written in English, the form contains all the pretentious, antiquated archaic and "what if?" that the company's lawyer can think of to prevent the employee from getting anything more than what he may have received.

If you think by signing that well-written document, the company is simply protocol, polish the thoughts.

After the money has been spent and the ex-employee has sought the assistance of a lawyer, don't be surprised if he files a complaint before the Department of Labor questioning the enforceability of that document.

He will argue that when he signed it, he did not understand its contents and that he affixed his signature under duress.

That argument will not fly if the document was written in a language that he was familiar with it.

(For feedback, please write to <quisumbing@pquisumbing.ph>.)

From page B1

Shares plumb record depths anew

"Should we expect a recovery soon? I doubt it. We're in an oversold position, so there would be some trading opportunity," Nestor Aguila of SM Markets Securities told Dow Jones Newswires. "But overall, the major trend is still down. Investors should wait for the market's complete decline before cautiously entering the market."

Traders expect the index's next support at 2,300 points, or about 20.2 percent below the market's level at the end of calendar 2007.

"Oil is the ghost that will keep haunting the market," said Antonio del Castillo of First Grade Holdings. "Expect corporate earnings to fall as inflation takes its toll."

Ayala Land fell 30 centavos to P9.40 while Philippine Long Distance Telephone shed P25 to P2,500.

San Miguel A and B shares ended unchanged at P49 each. AFP

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GOINGS-ON

Watershed partners

TWENTY INTERTECH FROM THE ACADEME, a seed forum, nongovernmental organizations, private companies and corporate foundations broke up the partners for watershed protection with East Zone concessionaire Manila Water Co.

The forum, the water and wastewater service provider recently linked its revenue-neutral partners for their efforts in reforesting, rehabilitating and preserving the San and Tibabo watersheds to ensure sustainable water supply in terms of water quality and quantity.

Business water-start partners began the collaboration of the process, while four groups committed to participate in the reforestation of the Bistro watershed. To date, a total of 39 members of the critical cities have been committed.

eTelecare cited

ETELECARE Global Solutions, a leading provider of complex business process outsourcing (BPO) solutions, said it has been named the eighth largest global aggregate inbound telesservices agency by Outsource International magazine. This is the first time that eTelecare has earned a top ten ranking in the annual competition.

Now on its 23rd year, Outsource International Solutions' Top 50 Telesservices Agencies Ranking, which compares the number of billable telesservices minutes companies completed over a twelve-month period, is used by the industry as a benchmark for determining the largest outsource contact center providers.

Power of the youth market

JOHN WILEY & Sons (Asia) Pte Ltd. and Marketan Philippines has released the book "The Future and Me: Power of the Youth Market in Asia" recently. The book details the exciting opportunity arising from those that set their sights on the "new species" of consumers emerging in Asia—the young premium consumer.

With their conspicuous sophistication and lifestyle-driven consumption patterns, young premium consumers provide an increasingly valuable and exciting market segment for luxury businesses, helping to create a better understanding of this new breed. "The Future and Me: Power of the Youth Market in Asia" explores the ever-emerging market and offers strategies designed to help realize tailored business activity.

The book is the first in a four-volume Marketan Asian consumer market series written by Dr. Yvonne Reddick Wong, executive advisor, Asia Pacific, Middle East Worldwide.

Alliance Global to put up ₱3.8-B hotel

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lazaro

ALLIANCE GLOBAL GROUP INC., THE holding firm of tobacco makers Tsa, said it would invest P3.8 billion in an all-suites hotel as its second flagship project in Pasay City.

In a statement, Alliance Global said its tourism arm, Travellers International Hotel Group Inc., would undertake the development of Manila's third cooperation with Star Cruises Ltd.

Star Cruises is also Alliance Global's partner in the Manila Bay Tourism City project of Philippine Reclamation and Leisure Corp.

The hotel project will start this year and is scheduled for completion in 2010.

"With the opening of the Ninoy Aquino International airport Terminal 3, we are expecting a surge in tourist arrivals. The Malate's Mind, the country's first all-suites luxury hotel, will be ranked to give these tourists a memorable and positive business experience here in our country," Alliance Global chair Andrew Tan said.

Malate's Hotel is a luxury hotel brand of the Sterling Group, a sister company of Hong Kong-listed Star Cruises Ltd.

Alliance Global is tapping the expertise of Gatmo Chicago to design the interior of the Malate's Hotel suites. Gatmo had done the interiors of more than 500 luxury hotels and also has resort projects in the Americas and the Caribbean region, including The Ritz-Carlton Chicago and the Hilton Grand Vacation Club in Hawaii.

Gatmo Chicago is also the appointed interior designer for the grand lobby of Megaworld's One Central residential condominium project in Makati City.

Manila's Hotel Newport City will feature 150 big and junior suites, about a dozen deluxe suites and one presidential suite from the hotel's other eight floors.

Three private villa residences with individual pools are planned for the fourth floor. The nine floors will host a luxurious pool for the exclusive use of hotel guests.

The hotel will be built on a one-hectare lot beside a logous, near the entrance to Greyster City to Villamor Airbase. It will have a gross floor area of more than 20,000 square meters.

The Inner Room of the hotel will house the Newport Entertainment and Commercial Center. The new mall will feature signature brands at the ground floor, superb resource stage at the second level and fine dinement at the third floor.

Newport City is a 25-hectare residential, commercial and office development of Alliance Global's property arm, Megaworld Corp. It will feature luxury residential condominiums, shopping malls, restaurant strips and business process outsourcing (BPO) office condominiums.

Elizabeth S. Lazaro

RP hopes to start export of bananas to US soon

By Amy B. Reyes

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTment of Agriculture has assured the Philippine government that it would fast track the processing of its quarantine protocols to enable Filipino growers to export hard green bananas to the US.

Once these protocols, including the fruit's post-risk analysis, are finally hard banana growers will be able to export bananas to the US and soon for the country an additional $6 million a year.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, according to US officials, raised the issue on the banana protocol pending with the US-DoD Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service in a meeting with Secretary Ed Schafer held during President Bilaspugal-Arroyo's recent working visit to the US.

"Secretary Schafer assured Secretary Yap that the processing of the protocol for Philippine bananas will be fast tracked by his agency," Agriculture Assistant Secretary Joy-lina Jandoza, who was part of the President's delegation, said.

"Bureau of Plant Industry quarantine officials said they were optimistic that the evaluators of the Philippines banana pest safeguarding measures will turn out to be favorable and a protocol for the importation of hard green bananas can be agreed upon and completed soon," Jandoza said.

In the meantime, she said, USDA officials had agreed with the local Department of Agriculture to immediately implement two projects, namely a biotechnology training of 10 Filipino scientists in American universities and a US agricultural trade and investment mission to Mindanao within the year.

These projects and commitments were reached to separate meetings between USDA officials led by Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer and Yap along with Jandoza and Philippine agricultural attaché to Washington Verna Jane Lavina.

PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
PICPA Building, 708 Shaw Boulevard
Mandaluyong City

NOTICE OF MEETING
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

To ALL PICPA Members:

In accordance with the provisions of Article XIII, Section 1 and 3 of the By-Laws of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants, notice is hereby given that the Annual Membership Meeting will be on Friday, July 25, 2008 at 1:00 pm at the Bahia, Hotel intercontinental, Makati City.

AGENDA
1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Publication of Notice of Meeting
3. Certification as to Presence of Quorum
4. Reading and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
6. Report of the President
7. Report of the Treasurer
8. New Business
9. Determination of the place of the next annual meeting
10. Adjournment

We urge all members to attend the Annual Membership Meeting. For members who cannot be present in person, please accomplish and return to us the general proxy form. The general proxy form can be downloaded from the PICPA website www.picpa.com.ph or can be obtained from the PICPA National and Chapter Offices.

Leonardo B. Reyes
National Secretary

THE SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB, INC.
NOTICE OF AUCTION

In accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, the Board of Directors of The Subic Bay Yacht Club, Inc., has approved to auction the INDIVIDUAL Membership Shares corresponding to the following membership share number and stock certificate number due to the delinquency in their payments of their outstanding obligations to the club:

MEM#	STOCK CERT#	MEM#	STOCK CERT#	MEM#	STOCK CERT#	MEM#	STOCK CERT#	MEM#	STOCK CERT#
0122	00004	0468	00464	0840	00171	0872	00001	0196	00196
1402	00384	1388	00384	1813	00841	0836	00836	0886	00886
0884	00120	0089	00870	0887	00380	0466	00466	0887	00888
0759	00810	0991	00884	0412	00103	1886	00196	0195	00196
1456	00398	1067	00818	1662	00898	2160	00217	0730	00736
1211	00868	2034	00849	0994	[illegible]	2811	00883	0882	00870
0838	00877	1478	00180	1103	00186	2811	00881	1021	00185
1385	00883	1981	00188	1220	00389	0878	00188	0714	00838
1350	00183	0078	00882	0208	00188	1787	00314	2812	00886
1004	00488	1276	00482	0477	00813	1782	00488	1886	00118
0882	00885	1038	00208	1411	[illegible]	1796	00881	0730	00886
0297	00889	1302	00182	0882	00287	1667	00851	0884	00388
1364	00180	1961	00728	0486	00881	0853	00854	0403	00855
0865	00827	0885	00808	1486	00878	0882	00884	1344	00180
0288	00883	1308	00196	1130	00188	0788	00183	1308	00816
0859	00886	1715	00884	0405	00873	0457	00887	0478	00887
0736	00887	1481	00827	0827	00877	0417	00186	0280	00882
1317	00316	0788	00248	0886	00188	0827	00887	0273	00846
1350	00186	1982	00781	0780	00188	1827	00888	1730	00827
0818	00188	0981	00388	0328	00877	0404	00178	1828	00188
1482	00733	1488	00180	1886	00888	1388	[illegible]	1082	00173
0800	00881	0841	00810	0818	00187	1446	00178	1823	00180
1838	00488	0208	00821	0872	00187	1128	00847	0838	00877
0886	00187	1374	00184	1180	00882	0828	00113	0281	00886
0745	00783	1026	00188	0231	00813	1825	00859	1840	00810
0715	00882	1143	00318	0811	00184	0183	00731	0284	00827
0852	00878	0851	00865	0832	00818	1213	00182	0214	00837
1388	00841	0882	00128	1148	00818	1128	00187	1404	00883
0882	00181	1181	00128	0882	00888	0788	00888	1884	00388
0814	00883	0881	00778	0882	00888	0784	00183	1848	00388
0287	00886	0187	00128	0784	00885	0882	00882	0848	00183
0268	00182	0182	00858	0387	00188	0882	00873	1884	00788
1868	00848	0708	00788	0882	00888	0887	00883	1288	00888
1302	00187	1882	00886	0882	00888	0882	00874	0178	00288
0130	00839	0868	00284	0882	00137	0882	00873	1838	00181
0382	00888	0848	00888	1100	00133	0882	00884	1138	00133
1178	00182	1384	00188	1887	00782	0288	00873	0184	00888
0287	00888	1180	00187	1802	00888	1870	00888	0811	00873
1488	00811	1407	00788	0372	00817	0882	00187	0284	00885
1455	00183	0748	00858	0418	00184	1870	00188	1147	00188
0308	00888	0841	00888	0730	00888	0888	00184	0258	00887
1481	00888	1888	-	0887	00188	1881	00182	1148	00187
0884	00138	0844	00818	0827	00884	0888	00872	0258	00888
1870	00882	0838	00181	1888	00887	1888	00188	0788	00288
1138	00818	0821	00881	0887	00858	0182	00838	0838	00888
1818	00188	0778	00888	1128	00183	0281	00182	1138	00188
0284	00848	1884	00183	1840	00188	1138	00841	1112	00183
0880	00878	1844	00848	1848	00188	1783	00818	0828	00188
0887	00881	1188	-	1188	00188	1138	00887	0811	00881

The minimum bid is set at Two Hundred Ten Thousand Pesos (₱210,000.00) inclusive of the transfer and entrance fees of Fifty Thousand Pesos (₱50,000.00). The minimum annual conservable per share of Forty Two Thousand Pesos (₱42,000.00) shall be paid two years in advance by the winning bidder.

If no bids be received or if the winning bidder fails to pay the amount of his bid within 24 hours after the bidding, the Club may in its discretion appropriate the share itself in the amount equivalent to the outstanding obligation of the member plus interest, penalties and other charges. In the event that the Club refuses to exercise said right, the auction procedure may be repeated from time to time at the discretion of the Membership Committee until the share of stock is sold. (Article X, Section 1 of the By-Laws).

The complete rules governing the Auction of Delinquent Shares are available at the Membership Services Department.

The auction proper shall be held on July 26, 2008, Saturday, at 10:00 a.m. at the Jacques Lounge, Mezzanine Floor, Subic Bay Yacht Club, Rizal Highway Corner Burgos St., Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

For further inquiries, please contact the office of the undersigned at tel. no. 02 551 2000 or the Billing and Collection Department at tel. no. 047 252 5211 locals 2101, 2110 and 2116 or the Membership Services Department at tel. no. 047-252-5211 local 1131.

(Sgd.)ATTY. MELISSA MAMAUAG
Corporate Secretary

Gov't to rake in more VAT with surge in oil prices

By Michelle V. Rivera

THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS to generate more value-added tax on oil imports than expected due to the weakened revenue in fuel prices.

The Department of Finance earlier estimated that the government would collect about P11.6-billion more from VAT on oil this year due to higher crude prices.

The projection, however, was based on the assumption that oil prices would settle at $111 a barrel.

Expected windfall to bankroll pro-poor programs, DOF says

"But oil price has already hit levels much higher than $111 a barrel. This means the government could collect much more VAT this year," Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran said.

Yesterday, oil prices hit a record $146 a barrel.

The DOF said the additional revenues from VAT collections this year would be used largely to fund pro-poor programs.

"The focus of the government's pump-priming programs is the poor. Yes, some of the incremental revenues from VAT on oil will be used to provide assistance to that sector," Beltran said yesterday.

Informed about the oil firms' plan to implement yet another round of price hikes this week, Beltran said the government might be forced to immediately implement more subsidy programs.

Oil firms are expected to increase the price of diesel by P3 a liter, most likely on a staggered basis, in the coming weeks.

Oil firms have raised prices 17 times since the start of the year.

Further, Malacañang ordered the one-time distribution of P500 worth of electricity subsidy to each lifeline user, referring to households with a monthly electricity consumption of 100 kilowatt-hours or less.

Another proposed assistance was the granting of P2 per liter subsidy to operators/drivers of public utility vehicles.

Beltran said plans of oil firms to further increase prices would have pressure on the government to approve the proposed fuel subsidy for PUVs.

He said, however, that there was no decision yet on the proposal.

Meanwhile, the World Bank said it was willing to lend as much as $100 million to the Philippine government to fund the proposed Conditional Cash Transfer program.

Under the program, the government would provide education and health assistance to selected poor households provided the children are sent to school and family members regularly visit health centers for medical checkups.

The government is expected to decide soon on the proposed implementation of the educational and health subsidies.

FORMIDABLE PARTNERSHIP The Ilocos Commission and Development Authority; CJH Development Corp. and Ayala Land Inc. visited a 66-ha(?) campsite Camp John Hay as a premier eco-tourism and business destination. Signing the agreement are (from left) ALI CEO Jaime Ayala, CJH chair/CEO Robert John L. Sobrepeña, BCDA CEO Narciso L. Abaya and BCDA Chair Magtanggol B. Santos.

Execute, not just legislate

By Erwinia M. Chokalingan

WHEN WE TAXPAYERS PUSH BULLISH BY governments, we are asked to write our senators and congressmen for new legislation.

But as a former government official for 14 years, I have found that the great majority of reforms do not need legislation. Those reforms can more swiftly and effectively be addressed through executive action.

An illustration case is the need to stop smuggling.

Senate hearing

Last June 30, a Senate inquiry was held on this issue. It was co-chaired by Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Chiz Escudero, who have co-authored a proposed anti-smuggling bill: "An Act Amending Certain Provisions of Presidential Decree No. 1464, otherwise known as the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as Amended."

During the hearing, we found out that many provisions in the proposed bill could effectively curb smuggling. But those same provisions could likewise be implemented through executive action without new legislation.

What follows are three examples. The first is the introduction transmittal of the Inward Foreign Manifest (IFM) from the Bureau of Customs (BOC) to the Department of Agriculture (DA) and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). The IFM lists the goods/cargo that are on the ship, their volume, and their date of arrival.

Since only BOC has access to IFMs, smuggling is relatively easy. One only has to bribe BOC to hide, misclassify or undervalue, on the ship's imported contents, and the smuggling is virtually perfect.

The clamor for IFM access for DA and DTI for check and balance purposes found its way into a proposed anti-smuggling bill late 2004. It was passed by the House of Representatives in 2005, but did not get passed in the Senate for lack of time.

This long process of enacting legislation against a known ground zero with the now-longtime last year.

Albert Lim, National Confederation of Hog Farmers president, and concurrently Alyansa Agrikultura vice president for the Visayas said, "What so many bills in Congress, it's anybody's guess when the anti-smuggling bill will be passed. Meanwhile, we are foregoing more than P100 billion in foregone government revenue from smuggling, lost actual and potential jobs, and danger to our health from unsafe products."

However, BOC can grant IFM access to DA and DTI without legislation. All it needs is an executive order and a memorandum of agreement.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves demonstrated this last July 3 when he ordered the BOC to transmit the IFM information to DA and DTI. We hope after that, I personally witnessed BOC giving IFM data to DA, but not to DTI.

Today, DA personnel monitor the manifest to see if the IFM information they are receiving, but at least the process has started. On the other hand, DTI has yet to receive anything.

Do we need to wait for a law to make this IFM access complete? If the good work started by Teves is not followed through, legislation may be required in form the legal basis for criminal negligence charges to be filed. But this may be unnecessary if the proper executive action is taken.

Disposition of smuggled goods

A second provision is the disposition of smuggled agricultural goods being limited only to "re-export, official use or charity, seed farming and destruction."

Since no one has found the smuggling is the last 30 years, it is important to find a way to immediately penalize the smuggler.

One method is to deny his direct or indirect access to the smuggled goods. The Senate bill's proposed provisions eliminate this access by not allowing the option of "compromised settlement and auction (which is reportedly often rigged through syndicates), where the smuggler can still get back his goods.

Again, through executive management prerogative, the BOC can implement only the destruction option, a provision previously stated in the draft bill. In 2005, former BOC Commissioner Antonio Bernardo started limiting disposition option for smuggled goods, chickens, and eventually upon the recommendation of Alyansa Agrikultura, it is could be done then for those agricultural products within the jurisdiction of BOC's done soon for all agricultural products.

Another Senate provision mandates that a representative of the private sector allowed by undervalued or misdeclared imported goods (i.e., technical smuggling) should automatically participate in the BOC's Valuation and Classification Committee (VCC).

Today, though there is selective private sector participation in the VCC, it is not as thorough as what the Senate provision recommends. Again, there is nothing to stop BOC from making this happen, except an allergy to full transparency and accountability.

Conclusion

We should support the passage of an effective anti-smuggling bill, if only to guarantee and institutionalize much needed reforms, but this might take some time.

Meanwhile, as taxpayers, we should immediately demand that the critical BOC reforms included in the draft bill already be implemented through executive action to arrest where legislation is not required.

And for all those advocates supporting reform bills, it is suggested that proposed provisions that can be implemented through executive action without new legislation required be identified.

These reforms can then be highlighted for fast tracking and accountability by the Executive Branch.

Chokalingan is the chair of Agrowatch, former secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for Agriculture, and Trade and Industry. For inquiries and suggestions, e-mail agrowatch-phil@yahoo.com or telephone (02) 4022121.

PAL launches promo, routes

By Ben T. Dalumdes

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES IS OFFERING a three one-way domestic ticket for every ticket bought to encourage travel until Dec. 15.

"The travel period for this promotion is all part of the traditionally lean months for airlines. There is also the additional factor of high prices discouraging travel. We think that promo like this will stimulate the market," said PAL spokesperson Rolando Estrella in a phone interview.

PAL further said in a statement that the promo was applicable to all PAL domestic services and PAL Express routes from Manila and Cebu.

Also included in the promo are four PAL Express services to be launched on July 15 between Manila and San Jose, Occidental Mindoro; Virac, Catanduanes; Calbayog, Samar; and Surigao City, Surigao del Norte.

PAL said that those traveling on a regular jet service to Luzon will pay as low as P2,168, inclusive of air fare, fees and surcharges, for a one-way ticket.

For jet flights to Visayas, the total may be as low as P2,078 one-way and for Mindanao, as low as P2,388 one-way.

In return for buying a ticket, the passenger gets a five-one-way ticket.

The promo deal can be availed of at PAL ticket offices or accredited travel agents until July 7.

It is valid for travel between July 15 and October 15, 2008. A limited number of seats is covered by the promo.

Methane-powered plant starts operations

By Abigail L. Ho

A POWER PLANT that will run on methane in the closed sanitary landfill in Rodriguez, Rizal, is set to start operations this month, with an initial output of 2 megawatts (MW) that can be increased to 11 MW in five years.

According to Manuelbon Methane Power Corp. (MMPC), at least 1,100 tons of garbage is needed to sustain the plant's operations.

Increasing the volume of trash to 2,300 tons can extend production to 10 years instead of just five.

MMPC designed the waste-to-energy project to take advantage of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

Under Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol, the CDM allows investors in emission reduction projects to generate "certified emission reductions" (CERs) equivalent to certain dollar amounts.

One CER is equivalent to an emission reduction of one ton of carbon dioxide.

Investors that can take advantage of the CDM include investable energy such as wind, solar, biomass and hydro, but excluding from fossil fuel as "green" fuel 6.6.2; energy efficiency measures; and ex-green mine in industries that have both steam and power requirements.

The Kyoto Protocol's goal is to meet the quota for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2012.

Since the methane plant project was designed to prevent methane gas from escaping into the atmosphere while also producing power without using nonrenewable energy resources, MMPC expressed confidence that it would qualify as a CDM project.

Once registered, MMPC said the plant would be the country's first landfill-gas-to-energy CDM project, as well as the world's fourth largest such project.

MMPC expected the methane power plant to earn at least 300,000 CERs.

The company also believed that the project would position the Philippines as among the models for similar projects around the world, as part of the battle against global warming and environmental degradation.

Methane is considered a potent greenhouse gas—21 percent worse than carbon dioxide as an environment pollutant—and its presence in the atmosphere largely contributes to global warming.

Peter Schreyer is the man behind the first automotive icons of the 21st century: the Audi TT and now Volkswagen Beetle—and has been in his newly created role of Chief Design Officer of Kia Motors since September 2006. He is driving a strategy to turn Kia Motors into a design-driven brand in the car industry without the high product pricing that is currently connected to design driven brands. Part of this strategy is to create a design-oriented and creative culture throughout Kia Motors.

As he puts it, "Miles Davis had a vision for new music, brought together the right and best talent of his time, and created a form of music that changed music forever and is still influencing it today. KMC management understands the importance of fostering the creative culture throughout Kia and developing design talent throughout the entire organization."

Indeed, publicly the company has been actively pushing the development of design as a new core competitive sense since June 2006. This goes as deep as the plans to establish two overseas Kia - exclusive design centers in California and Frankfurt to complement the homegrown design studio and to foster a culture of creativity throughout the Kia Motors organization starting with specially organized design seminars for employees.

Peter Schreyer College of Art (the U.K.). In late 2006, Kia Motors this year alone has unveiled a grand total of four concept vehicles. This level of creativity is unprecedented for the company but, in fact, again showcases the strategic approach the company is taking with design.

It is public manifestations of this corporate design strategy. However, that have really captured the automotive industry's attention. Following the appointment of one of only three automotive designers in history to receive an honorary doctorate from the Royal

Gaming firm sells shares to Asianlogic

By Elizabeth Sandoz-Lucero

PHILECO LISTED LEISURE firm Leisure and Resorts World Corp. will raise P134.7 million from the sale of 37 million shares to London-based online casino firm Asianlogic Ltd.

LRWC told the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday that its board had authorized the issuance of new shares at P3.30 a piece.

The agreed price is 11.4 percent lower than the P5.50 a share specified in an earlier agreement between the two companies.

LRWC said the proceeds from the issuance of the new shares, equivalent to about 4.07 percent of the company's new subscribed and outstanding shares, would be used to fund expansion projects of LRWC's subsidiaries, as well as new gaming business ventures.

LRWC earlier said its board had authorized the formation of a local sports betting operation in cooperation with Asianlogic.

Asianlogic is listed on the London Alternative Investment Market and is involved in the development, operation, management and marketing of online casinos and online poker.

LRWC will acquire a stake in the new firm by issuing 242.86 million new shares at P4.50 each over an unsecured promissory note payment.

The issuance of 129MC shares will be subject to the joint venture's obtaining projected net income targets over the six months ended June.

LRWC's board will submit the memorandum of agreement to shareholders for approval at its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 10.

BUSINESS Friday

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Business Features Editor Margie Quiroz-Espiloy

Horizontal marketing: Guru's latest buzz word

By Margie Quiroz-Espiloy

IN THE BRICK AND mortar world of old, no deal is struck before a face-to-face meeting takes place and perhaps a friendship developed.

But in today's so-called the world, a business can buy from a supplier it has never met, a marketer can sell to a consumer in an unknown location, or a consumer can endorse a product that is sold on the other side of the world.

These trends can be traced to what marketing guru Hermawan Kartajaya calls a horizontal market.

In a horizontal market, there are no borders and communication is instantaneous.

As such, Kartajaya urges marketing experts to change their strategies to be able to take advantage of this new environment.

This was one of the key messages of Kartajaya, who was the keynote speaker during the recently held World Marketing Conference of the Philippine Marketing Association.

Kartajaya, who has coauthored five books with one of the world's greatest marketing minds, Philip Kotler, also talked about "refresh marketing"—referring to the change in legacy or traditional marketing to make room for the new.

It's a take on the Internet command "refresh" or reload a web page.

He talked about three critical phrases that the world is—dot-com, fast and fluorescent and the four Fs—influence, expansion, integration and interdependence.

"People all over the world can succeed to integrate and to be interdependent," he said.

To do this, Kartajaya talked about the three C's—change yourselves, (new) competencies and collaboration.

In an exclusive interview with Kartajaya, Business Friday talked him to expound more on his core buzz word of a "horizontal" market.

Q: How does it fit in marketing. Or into your concept that the market is horizontal?

A: Perhaps I should clearly say that one of the implications from this horizontal market is that the marketer should have a horizontal-based marketing strategy as well. This is to say that your marketing strategy which consists of segmentation, targeting and positioning (STP) are oriented in a way that it should not be oriented any more. In the New Wave (horizontal) Marketing era, the marketer should not find the right segment, but rather find the right community or even if you want to: Build the community.

"Communitization" is much more powerful than segmentation simply because customers would care for each other more than they have to when they are grouped into a community. What's really happening in the society today is that people are becoming lonely. That's why they go into communities—workplace communities, sports communities, religious communities, automotive communities, school communities and so on. And then may join one or two or more communities that can characterize their passion and interests so that they can share with others who are like them and feel the sense of being one.

One member of the notorious Harley Davidson Owners Group (HOG) may also profess as a university lecturer, a member of Rotary Inn club and a declared Manchester United fan. The implication from here is that the same customers can join more than one community, which means that marketers must view the market not only creatively but infinitely. And the market itself is becoming more like a crowd full of people.

So I guess what is happening is no longer niche marketing but infinite marketing fragmentation.

Q: If the market is flat, are you saying that there should only be one marketing message to all audiences, that there are no more barriers? If this be the case, how do you market to the different segments—how exactly will you know if you are reaching your market?

A: The key to reach and engaging yourself into communities is how you address anxiety and desires of the crowd. The message that you convey to your audience, the crowd, should represent what they desire. You have to remember that in this horizontal marketing era, positioning is no longer about "positioning yourself" or i.e., what

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Hermawan Kartajaya's points:

1. WHAT IS HAPPENING IS NO LONGER NICHE marketing but infinite marketing fragmentation.

2. From targeting the customers, it is now confirming the community. In a horizontal market, positioning is no longer about positioning yourself but clarifying who you are as an implication of how the community relates to your brand.

3. Your customers are becoming smarter and well connected, so the marketer should facilitate the connection platform customers use to interact with one and other.

4. It is essential for the marketer to see customers not as the object but rather as the subject.

5. Your marketing approach should be humanized.

Is your brand protected?

IF YOU'RE PLANNING TO BE your own boss and run your own business, you will have to make one of the most important decisions: expanding your enterprise. Your brand.

Your brand, which consists of your brand name and trademark, will carry the quality and the reputation of your product or service. Branding is a strategy for the public to remember the product and later on associate to consumer patronage and increased revenues.

Your brand is part of what is called "intellectual property assets." Your intellectual property assets may be intangible, but they are also a vital element in profitability.

Effective IP management is key to keep a business up and running. However, without intellectual Property protection, brand names are at risk. Its vulnerability to copying endangers the credibility and promising endeavors of entrepreneurs.

"It is important to choose distinctive and eye-catching brand, it is also important to ensure your brand is protected," says lawyer Michael Toledo, senior partner at Bengzon Negre Untalan Intellectual Property Attorneys.

"Failure to protect one's IP could lead to theft of ideas and diminished revenues, resulting in lesser competitive edge in the market," he adds.

Here are some guidelines on how business proprietors and "wannabe" entrepreneurs can secure their brands through IP management and protection.

1. Choose or create a name, symbol or logo that is distinctive and hard to duplicate. It should have a positive meaning and not merely describe the product or service offered.

2. Apply for registration of the chosen brand in the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines. Fill out the necessary forms and provide the requirements such as copies of color, reproduction and description of the mark, fees and goods or services covered.

3. Submit the trademark application with the Bureau of Trademarks (BOT) in the Intellectual Property Office (IPO). Your application will undergo evaluation and examination.

4. If there are no oppositions for the approval of the name or trademark, the IPO will publish the trademark application in the IPO Gazette upon payment of fees. The mark or name will now be the official trademark of the party that registered it.

5. Remember that business names register priors with the Department of Trade and Industry or company registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission is different from trademark registrations with the BOT. It is through trademark registrations that trademark rights are secured.

For more details, visit the IP Philippines' website www.ipophil.gov.ph or consult your IP attorneys for professional guidance.

"The trademark application process might seem unnecessary and effortful to most new entrepreneurs, but if you are successful in having your mark approved, you have taken the first step in ensuring protection and longevity of your brand," says Atty Untalan.

If you think that trademark application will cause you to shell out money unnecessarily, think again. A brand name is only worth something if it is protected. If you don't take advantage of that, others will—at your expense. It is your investment in it.

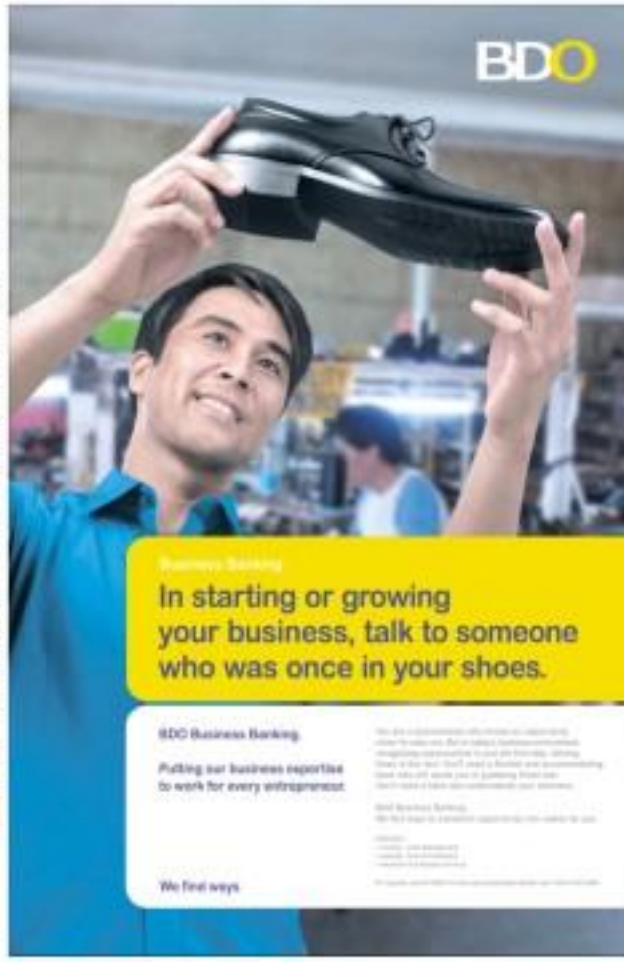
Secure your name

1. CHOOSE A DISTINCT NAME OR LOGO.

2. Apply for IPO registration.

3. Submit trademark application.

4. Business name registration is different from trademark application.



Use digital media and be in-step with customers

AS A GROWING NUMBER OF consumers worldwide spend about 29 percent of their time online, advertisers invest only 9 percent of their marketing budget on digital media.

This gap was pointed out by Ravi Warrier, OgilvyOne Worldwide president for Asia Pacific, to underscore the need to further understand and appreciate the use of digital channels for various marketing purposes.

"The Marketing Confidence Gap is largely due to a very low level of comfort marketers have in tapping digital media as well as the learning curve they need to undergo before they optimize those channels," Warrier explained. This ongoing gap was tracked by NeedHOgilvy OgilvyOne's full-service digital and direct media company.

It is for the purpose of teaming up with a definitive Digi-Marketing book that Warrier, together with educator and marketing consultant Ian Fenwick, wrote, "DigiMarketing: The Essential Guide to New Media and Digital Marketing." It seeks to help the public better understand the new media and the digital marketing options available so they can harness the power of DigiMarketing to grow their business.

A lot of the cases cited in the book were taken from the actual DigiMarketing projects developed and implemented by OgilvyOne Worldwide—the Ogilvy group which focuses on one-to-one marketing or customer relationship management (CRM).

Elly Payot, OgilvyOne Worldwide/Manila managing director, clarified that despite the fact that about 90 percent of its clients tap digital media, CRM remains the agency's main focus. She said OgilvyOne uses digital media to allow its clients to communicate directly to their target markets and for these companies to harvest customer loyalty.

Of OgilvyOne's clients, Payot pointed to Nike as the most adventurous "DigiMarketer" given the brand's personality and the demographics of its young, tech-savvy target market. She also mentioned that several financial institutions are looking at increasing their use of digital media, given that "more than 50 percent of Internet users are affluent"—the specific clientele the bank is targeting for its products.

Warrier described the shift to digital as "seismic" by reason of the irreversible changes it has brought about in the marketing communications landscape. He identified among the benefits of using digital channels the relatively low price of entry, the instant response from target consumers, and the addressability of this "Must Media of One" which allows a company to track individual user behavior.

Warrier also disclosed that "of the current 1.4 billion Internet users, the largest group comes from Asia." Comparing it to the per capita media spending in specific Asian countries such as China, India and the Philippines, he concluded that, indeed, Asia is where the practice of DigiMarketing is expected to experience huge growth.

Of the various digital devices, Warrier singled out the mobile phone as "the most ubiquitous." In his presentation, he placed the number of current global subscribers at three billion, of which the actives SMS users number about 1.8 billion.

Asked to comment about mobile marketing, Warrier candidly said "99 percent of it are dreadful" because of the "Jewish way" companies are using SMS in delivering their messages. To which Payot said several marketers using mobile phones as platform still tend to be "spam-like" in their being very intrusive.

Among the local agencies, Warrier said OgilvyOne Worldwide/Manila may be best appreciated for the dedication with which it approaches the area of digital media in crafting strategic CRM programs. This is backed up by over 40 years of global experience in one-to-one communications.

Warrier, who is based in Bangkok, Thailand, visited the country to lend the efforts of Payot's local team, which boasts of over 10 years of local CRM work, to presidents of OgilvyOne Asia. Warrier is responsible for 16 offices in 12 countries in the region. An experienced writer and speaker on the topics of communications, advertising, marketing and digitalmarketing, he wrote his first book in 2002—"Building Brands and Believers."

ELLY Payot, OgilvyOne Worldwide/Manila managing director and Ravi Warrier

#2 MORE consumers go online using digital media, Ravi Warrier, president of OgilvyOne World Wide Asia, expressed the need for marketers to further understand and appreciate the "instant" shift.

Spot new franchise trends at PFA expo

SINCE ITS INTRODUCTION in the Philippines in the 80s, franchising has experienced phenomenal growth, proving itself as a resilient and adaptable business strategy. Introducing products and innovative business concepts, usually involving original and sometimes wacky ideas, are often those that click with the market.

Spot new franchise opportunities at the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA) Movers Franchise 2008, the 16th Philippine International Franchise Conference and Expo (Pifcon) on July 9 to 13.

Co-presented by PLDT Business Solutions and Smart, a two-day conference on July 9 and 10 at the grand ballroom of Renaissance Hotel in Makati City opens the annual event, with the theme "The Secrets to Franchising Success." The conference features the latest local and international trends affecting franchising, a sector that has been experiencing phenomenal growth as a resilient and adaptable business strategy in the country.

Keynote speaker Ernesto Tanmantiong, Jollibee Foods Corp. president, will present "The Big Dream: A Thousand Stores."

Pifcon 2008 overall chair Jose Magnuson Jr. presents the conference speakers that include PFA chairman emeritus Ramon Lim, CFE on "Global Franchise Landscape: Sporting Trends and Opportunities;" Christopher Stonick, CFE, founder of the Synergy Franchise Group Network on "Global Benchmarks and Best Practices of Successful Franchisors;" Ms. Yoly Ong of Caripaglot & Ong on "Branding: The Secrets of Successful Global Brands;" Francis Glen Pe, president and CEO of Smart Philippines, will share "Success Secrets in Franchising," while PLDT Business Solutions and IBM Philippines Inc. will present "Implementing Technology Solutions for your Franchise System."

Day 2 covers plenary sessions, titled "The Secrets to Conquering the World" with Krispy Kreme Doughnut Corp. senior director of international Franchise Operations Chris-tian Joseph.

Outsourcing will also be tackled in "Supply Chain Management" by Jose Emmanuel Torres, VP for research and development of the Society of Fellows in Supply Management (the 40th anniversary year of the Philippine Institute for Supply Chain Management) and chairman of BizInfo Asia, and "Business Process Outsourcing" by Claudio Sebastian Bosco, president of the Business Processing Association Philippines (BPAP) and president of Intel Philippines Corp.

Following these are discussions on traditional and non-traditional channels of distribution, namely "Penetrating the Malls" with Rimmon Yanchiber, vice president of Ayala Mall's Group, and Cornelio S. Magat, Jr., EM for commercial centers division of Robinsons Land Corp., "Gearing up on the Convenience Trend," and "Online Sales and Marketing" by Roy Pharel, managing director of MyAyala.com Inc. Wrapping up the plenary sessions is "Mapping Your Future" by successful franchisees.

The rest of the day will be rapped by Business Solutions roundtable discussions, including "Profiling and Evaluating a Win-Win Franchise Relationship" by Christopher Simnick and Lin Dawes, franchise relations manager of Goldilocks Bakeshop Inc.; "Nurturing Customer Loyalty and Retention" by Sin Pick Pin, CEO of PR Dot Have, "Store Sales Building" by Jojo Apeo, marketing director of Chowking Food Corp., "Benefits of Outsourcing" by Ann Magnuson Jr., and Jose Sonido Jules, president of Robins Group of Companies; "Choosing the Right Franchise" by Francisco Vitaut Tiu Quirol of T.I.I. and Dr. Ed Gaudencio of Julie's Franchise Corp.; and "Accelerating the Site Selection Process" by Luke Tan, director of real estate, asset management and franchising of Golden Arches Development Corp. (McDonald's Philippines), and Pamela Medina, business development manager of 7-Eleven.

Banking for RP's modern-day heroes

PHILIRA Exports for the first up a bajos business.

WHO ARE THE PHILIPPINES modern-day heroes or the "bagong bayani?"

Some would say that it would be the overseas workers who are boosting our flagging economy through their dollar remittances. others would say that they are the underpaid public school teachers who continue to shape young minds amid the lack of school materials and facilities. While for some, the "bagong bayani" are the grassroots entrepreneurs who serve as the backbone of the economy—bringing in employment opportunities to millions and providing basic goods and services for the masses.

The concept of a "bagong bayani" may differ from one person to another. But for the First Country Bank (FCB), it is dedicating its efforts and support to the modern-day heroes of our country through the microfinance sector.

"First Country Bank leads the modern-day heroes of our country. They are the small-scale entrepreneurs, market-vendors, overseas workers and salaried employees who continually strive to make their community and their lives better. We are here to support and assist them through the various services and packages offered by First Country," said Rolando Ayos, general manager of FCB.

Founded in 1999 by former Department of Education Undersecretary Dr. Alejandro "Wilfredo" Clemente, FCB has proven that it can take an aggressive stance in the microfinance sector, with its officers bearing in mind that only a microfinance bank truly dedicated to the masses can help improve people's lives. With this, FCB recently launched its "Bagong Bayani" loan program which are tailor-fit to provide for the financial needs and jump-start the entrepreneurial spirit of a modern-day hero whether they are business owners, OFWs, pensioners, market vendors, professionals, organizations, etc.

"We want to make a difference in society by providing financial assistance to borrowers especially by the marginalized members of our society, who otherwise would have difficulty being served by bigger banks," she added.

The "Bagong Bayani" loan program has six packages: Microfinance for Women, Livelihood Program, Deped Teachers Loan Program, Business Loan Program, Pensioners Loan Program and Corporate Salary Loan Program.

The Bagong Bayani Microfinance for Women are loans to groups of women microentrepreneurs using the Grameen Bank microfinance methodology of group lending. Low income market vendors and other microentrepreneurs group themselves to form a center in order to avail of microloans. This package is available for women microentrepreneurs who need cash flow to finance their livelihood. And for those who have been in the business for at least two years and need bigger loans to finance their business, FCB is offering a Bagong Bayani Livelihood Program.

On the other hand, the Bagong Bayani Teachers Loan Program gives Deped public elementary and high school teachers the opportunity to have a livelihood or fund an urgent financial need. These are personal loans extended to public school teachers which is a nationwide program that ensures practically 100-percent collection through automatic salary deduction. FCB services thousands of teachers nationwide.

For seafarers, FCB offers the Bagong Bayani Seaman Loan Program, a multipurpose loan offered to seafarers at an affordable rate and with easy requirements. This would be a lot of help to them especially those who need short-term loans for personal needs such as the purchase of airline tickets or home renovation, or for livelihood purposes.

The Bagong Bayani Pensioners Loan Program membership is related to the PNAO (Philippine Veterans Affairs Office) Pension Credit Program. It is open to veterans of the armed forces of the Philippines, or their beneficiaries. Pension benefits are remitted to FCB for 100-percent collection.

The Bagong Bayani Corporate Salary Loan Program is for employees of small- and medium-sized companies. This is an automatic salary deduction program ensuring 10-percent collection. It is open to SMEs that want to offer salary loans to their employees.

"These Bagong Bayani loan programs of FCB have greatly benefited thousands of borrowers who otherwise wouldn't be welcomed by bigger banks. Since so, such affordable interest and charges, these loan packages are a boon to borrower and cheaper alternative to money lenders, finance companies and loan sharks that charge double, triple and even many times over. The Bagong Bayani loans have terms of as short as six months to as long as three years, depending on the packages. The amounts can be as small as P5,000 for microentrepreneurs as much as P100,000 for seafarers. FCB also offers larger loans amounts for commercial loans," said Ayos. "With the Bagong Bayani loan packages, we want FCB to become a major player in the microfinance banking industry. We would not only provide microfinance livelihood loans but also uplift the lives of people, promote harmony in the community and help boost our economy in the long run."

For inquiries on FCB's programs and loan packages, call 6877381 or 6877135, or visit the website at www.firstcountry.com.ph/bayani.asp.

Orbal Mercado now has a grassroots business with the help of FCB's loan programs.

With BDO as back-up, Corinthians Integrated Security took a shot at success.

BDO Leasing

Our deployment of innovative solutions triggered the security agency's growth.

We find ways

Meat and fish processing seminar set

LEARN TO PROCESS MEAT AND FISH AND EARN EXTRA cash. The Cookie Bonanza Skills Development Program will conduct a one-day seminar on meat and fish processing. The seminar will be held at the Orbit Building, 21 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City on July 12, Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Topics to be discussed are assorting of materials and costing. Participants will get to experiment how to make tocino, tinidtad longganisa, Chinese Cantonese sausage, embutido, chicken nuggets, chicken ham, bangus deboning, fish ball, fish fishloin, fish fillet fish burger, etc. Bonus courses: Corned beef and spiced ball. Participants will receive a certificate of training right after the seminar. Lunch and snack will be served and all the materials will be provided.

For questions call 436-7362.

Horizontal marketing: Guru's latest buzz word

From page B1

you were yourself to be, but rather clarifying who you are as an implication of how the community relates to your brand.

Q: Is this a case of a shotgun approach where you try to hit all the target markets at the same time?

A: The word targeting appeals a second in a way whereby marketer tries to aim and fit their brand in front of customers. That, I think the word target market itself has become irrelevant in this new business landscape. In the era of horizontalized marketing, positioning anything has become increasingly important. After finding the right community to building the community, the marketer must confirm which community is confirm. So this is a significant change. From what used to be "targeting the customer" now its confirming the community.

Q: If there is one thing that is a must-do for marketing executives, what would it be?

A: Old marketing positions may no longer be relevant. Customers are increasingly become fatigued toward top-down marketing approaches. They may see the communication activities that you conduct as spamming activities rather than communication activities. One thing marketer should dig in is that in this era of breakthrough technology your customers are becoming smarter and well connected, so marketer should facilitate the connection platform customers use to interact with one another.

Another thing is that, it is essential for marketers to see customers not as the object but rather as the subject. Those who buy products and services from you are individuals, persons and human. That's why what is important is that your marketing approach should be humanized. In this case, what you need is to engage with customers in a horizontal, egocentric and communal way by using technology platforms such as Internet, mobile phone, in order for you to create the betterment of mankind that is connected, catalyzed and civilized. That is the role of marketer to this new era of what I call New Wave Marketing.

Q: You have been in the Philippines and you know quite a lot about what is happening here. Now would you say we should tell the Philippines in brief(s) using your concepts of outlook marketing and a horizontal market?

A: I think the Philippines has as much as offer to tourists, traders and investors. You have beautiful landscape and other excellent resources that are marketable. In this horizontalized market, I think the best way is for the Filipinos themselves to market the promising economy in the world by using technology platform, especially the Internet as it is with 21st century where as a tool that may help to communicate what the country can offer.

BUSINESS Friday

Why product differentiation on senseless product attribute succeeds

Q: WE'RE IN HOUSE FURNISHES like the production and marketing of cooking oil, assembling and selling of vehicles, banking and insurance, and importation and distribution of healthcare products. All of these are in mature markets where more and more consumers see all participating brands in any of the categories as commodities, an all the same.

Our most recent move a month "Executive Learning Lunch and Fellowship" took up this issue of product differentiation in a mature market. We don't have any speaker for this learning session, so it's a free schooling discussion. There important things came out of this two-hour and-a-half brain storming.

First, in each category we were told that our brand should go after a "product differentiation strategy." Then second, in a mature market by definition, almost all relevant and meaningful product attributes for differentiation have been taken or even owned by some brand or brands. And third, what seems to work is to differentiate on some senseless aspect or dimension.

Two supposedly successful but old examples were cited. (There usually are more elderly folks in these sessions than younger ones, and so the old, pre-old examples.) One was Colgate's campaign of many years back encouraging consumers to favor Colgate because loading its gun is "putting a tiger in your tank." The second example was about the use of sexy octoplectomi lady tabletts lying on the hood or standing beside the driver seat of a truck advertised in some magazine or newspaper. In both cases. The senior reward asked: "What has the tiger got to do with gasoline quality?" or "What does sex have to do with quality trucks?"

Although several attempted, no one could give a really convincing explanation for the supposed success of this strategy of senseless product differentiation. Two of our executives suggested we write you and ask for your "diagnosis and Rx."

A: We'll limit our diagnosis to product differentiation strategy. We will not respond to some of the more creative alternative strategies for managing your brand in a mature market like the increasingly popular "Miss Ocean brand" of Kim Chan from HONGG. After all, your main concern is to understanding how "senseless product differentiation" can succeed.

Product differentiation via insighting

Consider first the opposite of senseless product differentiation, namely, relevant and meaningful product differentiation. How is this carried out?

It's basically a process of finding out some unsatisfied or inadequately satisfied consumer product value that's relevant to a sizeable enough market segment. This search process has been branded today with a fancy name, "consumer insighting." The sequence of steps in the process has been codified by the GMI (magic, mistake, magic) market survey in its "fringe" section.

There are two steps. The first step is to present to the consumers a list of important product category attributes and to ask consumers to rank the attributes from most down to least important. The assumption is that the differentiation that would matter to consumers is about what are important to them.

The second step is to ask consumers to rate the different major brands in the category on their individual perceived delivery or performance on each of the important product attributes. The attribute where a brand gets its highest rating is considered as that brand's area of perceived strength. Where it's rated lowest is its area of perceived weakness.

Now look at the ratings of all the brands on each of the important attributes. It is in these important attributes where everybody rates low or just average that you can discover effective product differentiation. But when all brands are rated high in all the important attributes, don't ask you get to the situation you referred to as commoditization. That's where consumers look at all of you as the same. That's when all brands believe that differentiation has become impossible and the competitive game has deteriorated to a pricing game.

Satisfied attributes

It is true that differentiation is no longer possible when all brands have satisfied all important attributes.

The "tiger in your tank" case and the other case of the sex-truck association will you that it's not true. There are many illustrative of effective product differentiation technique. What that technique does is to essentially introduce a new product attribute that the brand using it can get consumers to learn. Here's how this technique does this.

The tiger in your tank product differentiation was a metaphor to create that senseless, irrelevant differentiating attribute for the Colgate gasoline brand. Because the other gasoline brands at that time do not have that "attribute," consumers choosing among the available gasoline brands feels threatened or concludes that this "senseless" attribute must be worthwhile having in a gasoline. This particular variant of senseless product differentiation has been copyrighted and is being sold to large global consumer companies by Dexter Zafiness, consumer psychology professor of the senior MBAs at the Bolleg School in Northwestern University. It's branded as "DIET" (Zafiness Metaphor Elicitation Technique). DIET counts for its clients global consumer companies such as Unilever, Nestlé, Del gate Palmolive, Smith Lee, and several others.

Sense of senseless

So consumer make sense of the senseless?

The sex-truck association case is precisely what is is. Its seemingly senseless differentiating attribute eventually differentiates based on a psychological law of association. Robert Cialdini in his best selling book, "The Psychology of Persuasion," explains what can happen in a truck driver reading the truck print ad. According to Cialdini, if it with repeated exposure to the ad that something like this will take place. It is actually the reading memorize who will make sense out of that "senseless link." That brand of truck which consistently features in its ad a sexy and scantily clad lady beside or on top of its hood still more persuade one reading memorize that driving this brand of truck will make him sexually attractive to those irresistible sex lovers.

Does this still happen today with its more sophisticated and literate consumers? A current example will be instructive.

Here's a facial cream brand, Plantidote. It advertises in US glossy fashion magazines as a "Mega-Mushroom Face Cream" that with regular usage, "skin stays collect, maintain a stronger, healthier more vibrant appearance." The expert MDs of asked his wife who bought Plantidote what have mushrooms got to do with facial skin care and beauty. Apparently the wife had also asked the store's counter embodied this question when she bought it. Though she did not get a satisfactory explanation, she still bought because "it was very different." After unhesitatingly trying Plantidote for several days, the wife came to believe that it's the mushrooms in Plantidote that makes "my mom (that 60-year-old facial skin radiates healthier and more vibrant looking." That's the consumer psychology of "chemic." What's left unexplained or incomplete, the consumer explains and completes.

So there's the logic you were after, actually, not just one explanation but two or three explanations. All appealing to consumer "psycho-logic" that's far from the Aristotelian and Platon's rational logic we all learned in college.

Book launch time! All of our readers are welcome to come today, 6 p.m., to the Best of Marketing Rx book launch at Power Books, Greenbelt 4, Makati. Bring a copy of this column to get a discount on our book. Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at: Marketingrx@philrix.net. God bless!

LIFESTYLE FASHION
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan
Contributing Editors Apples Aberin-Sadhwani and Jenni Epperson

Discover how life insurance and investments through mutual funds can help secure your financial future.
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Trendspotting: belts for every age

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

Belting it out

Belt is a figure-enhancing accessory. Use it right

Standard issue

Make use the standard belt-width (1.5 inches) to flatter skinny types. Leather belt, PVC belt, Michael Kors, P5,950

Fake it!

Create the illusion of a slimmer waist by cinching it with a wide horn-lining belt. Shirt from Longchamp at Isetan, P2,750

Get the skinny

Add subtle detail to any ensemble with a sleek skinny belt. Snake leather bracelet belt, Zara, P1,950

WANT TO LOOK LIKE you lost 10 lbs in a click-

-urchin diet and exercise? Or look instantly sexier without surgery? Or (here again, suddenly look 10 lbs heavier without understanding why?

Sure, accessories make the outfit. But they can also create optical illusions that can work for or against our body features.

Like you, I'm lazy (other than belonging to Jedi) your pants up, it enhances your frame—if styled the right way. If long Jlo's got it down to a tee, why shouldn't you. It's all about placement.

So when choosing a belt for a certain outfit, remember these things first:

► Belts easily become the focal point of any ensemble. Complaints is drawn to where it is placed: waist, upper hip or lower hip. If done strategically, this can flatter one's body massively and vice versa. Like jewelry, buckles provide visual interest so place them where you want to draw attention to.

► Consider your body type and wear your belt accordingly:

Inverted triangle— (sizable top-earth women shoulders)? To balance off your body's proportion, place the belt right on or below the hipbone.

Bianca Valeros, Curves Beauty

Choose big, wide styles with textures and even, bottom, cut-out to help visually fill in inches your hips are missing and take attention away from your wider upper body.

Rectangular/ Hourglass Type—Straight all over, lacking curves? Wear belts are a must to create an hourglass figure. Wide or skinny belts, for as long as they're worn right on the waist enough to instantly create a smaller waist.

Pear-shaped/Triangle—Narrow shoulders with wider hips? This is the trickiest. Avoid wearing belts right on the hip as they only emphasize. If you add to the width. Instead, wear belts (you're shaped are best as them to the curves of the body) right by above the hipbone or on the waist, which trims focal point to upper body.

Have long belts clustered so avoid over layering which also adds inflat wrong inch-es. The objective is to look hip and not hip-pa

► The standard belt size that's most flattering to all body types is about 1.5 inches unless they're chain style. Regardless of style, make sure to fit them first to see how they fall on your hip; if the design will be compromised if altered or if the belt loops easily rips or deforms which reveals its quality.

So the next time you fail to hit the gym or stick to your diet? Have no fear, your handy-dandy belt is here!

Delicate balance

Balance out your shaped frame with tailored belts that should sit slightly above the hip bone.

Hip-py chick

Balance out broad shoulders by placing a belt right on the hip

Curves ahead

Create an hourglass figure with a horn-lining waist belt.

Buckle up, baby!

Emphasize your body's focal point with the use of a belt buckle. Rectangular horn buckle belt, Kit, P2,950

Heavy metal

Adorn your hips with some bling by using a chain belt. Chain Belt, Michael Kors, P12,750

Trendspotting: belts for every age

From page C1

can wear certain trends without looking like a fashion victim.

One way to look good while following the latest fads? Simple, dress in an age-appropriate manner. Here's how.

In your 20s

Lucky you! Here's the time to wear anything you want and experiment—granted that it suits your personality and body type, of course. Go for extra-wide waist cinchers or the skinniest belts available and match them with short shorts or swingy little dresses. Don't be afraid to play around with color and to create different, unexpected combinations.

The rule: there is none—unless you have to follow certain dress codes at work, that is.

Photography Cyrus Pangcoklan
Styling Tasha Feng
Hair and makeup Marie dela Rama for Lancôme Paris
Models Paloma Esmeria, Alice Feng, Vanessa Peaker-Ledesma

80s

BROWN linen dress, Zara at Chocolate Clothing Co., P1,995; tank top, Fats at Chocolate Clothing Co., P1,295; leather pat-work belt, Aldo at Rockwell's, P379.75; ring, Cris, P2,150

HALTER top, Wildflower at The Ramp, Greenbelt, P1,750; culottes, Bench at The Ramp, Greenbelt, P1,195; yellow and pink paisley belt, Aldo at Rockwell's, P149.75

In your 30s

You're in between that time when you can play around all you want (with fashion, mind you!) and when you have to practice a bit of restraint. Although basically you can still pretty much wear anything you please.

Go girly and feminine by wearing dresses with details like embroidery or prints and match them with neutral colored belts. Or you can also opt to dress in a composite manner by donning crisp button-downs clothed at the waist with chunky garter belts.

As you move through your 30s, your goal is to look like a mature, composed adult. Here's the time to slightly alter your wardrobe choices. Maybe you can check that micro mini in favor of a slightly longer skirt?

Or give away those hot pants for a more modest version—unless of course you've got what it takes (the body and the chutzpah, you're specific) to wear all those.

In your 40s

Just because you're in your 40s doesn't mean you have to dress like an "old" (It's still just a number, ladies!) woman. In fact, you should take your cue from the likes of Demi Moore, who manages to look up-to-the-minute, younger than her years and yet still appropriate. Bottom, I wonder if Ashton has anything to do with it.).

Keep them in mind: exactly how much skin is appropriate to show, and how your body has changed. Not everyone will be the same shape in their 40s and 50s as they were in their teens and 20s. So, choose clothing and accessories that suit your particular size and shape.

Tailored pieces in structured fabrics can easily hide flaws while playing up assets or they're good wardrobe staples. Jersey items are also easy to wear.

Remember that the most forgiving belt style is one that is around 1.5 inches thick. But if you're anything like Carrie and her friends, go all out and have some fashion fun. Go ahead, roll with the punches and try something new.

E-mail the author at ajbchloe@inquirer.com.ph

AVAILABLE AT L.T. VENTI GUIO AND LACOSTE BOUTIQUES.
FOR ADDITIONAL INFO CALL 632 6343169.

30s

EMBROIDERED dress, Bayo at The Ramp, Greenbelt, P1,695; Miranda belt, Camara by Rockwell's, P380; Earrings, Cris, P650

40s

BLACK dress, Sara at Chocolate Clothing Co., P1,395; Carrie belt, Camara by Rockwell's, P450

Get lucky on our 13th year!

Makati Supermart Alabang 13th Anniversary Sale!

Anniversary Sale also happening at CASH & CARRY SUPERMARKET and UniMart

Sale Period:
July 4 to July 20, 2008

Native Pechay P27.95/k • Pacoay P75.60/k • Patola P21.00/k • Cabi Cebu P28.25/k • Bagulo Mustard P69.25/k • Native Kale P31.50/k • Sitao P47.25/k • Native Mustard P52.50/k •Labuyo P98.75/k • Pomelo Davao P64.00/k • Manila Pomelo P113.50/k • Sumtol Bangkok P35.75/k New Zealand Kiwi Size 39 P30.25/k • Native Dalanges Seedless P57.75/k • Grape Fruit Size 36 P22.80/k • Fragrant Pears P64.00/k

White is all you need

1 item (boyfriend's white shirt), 5 ways

PANTYWIPED shorts, P1,490; yellow top, P1,450

Photography: Nicole Cuano
Styling: Nina Estacio for Big Ze Boys (09.17.4472429)
Makeup: Robbie Salinas for TBD Bed Head
Hair: Raymund Ilar for L'Oréal Professionel
Model: Dara Go (Ford Super Model 2006)
Clothes and accessories: Banana Republic

Jossi J. Epperson

PURE, FRESH, PRISTINE.

Sometimes, a crisp white shirt is all you need.

Whether it's a sunny day or a cloudy one, this fashion staple will never fail your personal style.

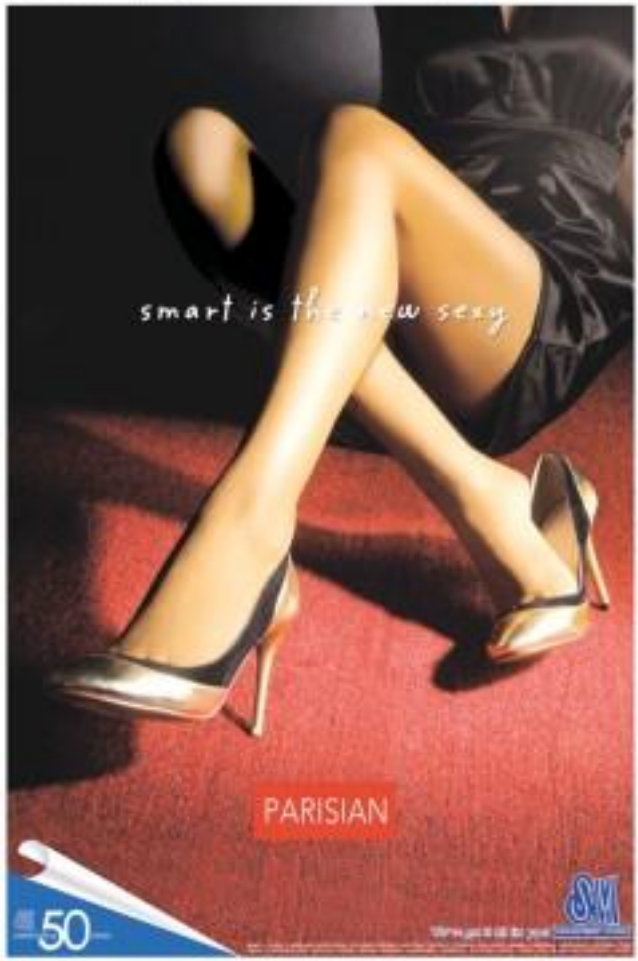
A closet is never without this classic piece that is wearable in more ways than one can imagine. All you need is an IDed due perches pieces to pair it with and voilà!

From casual to formal, every thing is cool, classic and clean with a plain white shirt. You can't go wrong with this basic in your drawer.

- Swim away—balance off that perfect tan and sizzling swimwear with a white shirt for a more sophisticated look on the beach. Wrap it around or dangle it, either way looks fresh.
- Shopping spree—a day at the mall calls for fashion and comfort. Shop all you drop in a plain white shirt paired with a statement-ic shirt. Accentuate with a skinny belt and you're good to go. Oops, don't forget that bag, it's shopping day!
- The weekender—everyone needs a time-off from a busy life. We all need the time to lounge around and play. Layer a white shirt and a light-colored blouse paired with shorts to ease up on this fun-filled day.
- Little black dress—whether it's a dinner date or a night full of martinis at your favorite bar, sophistication is in when a white shirt is layered with an LBD. Add a belt to show off your sexy silhouette and never go without a purse. An LBD and a classic white shirt—with two staples, who can possibly go wrong?
- Down to business—in a workplace where no one is seen without a white shirt, set yourself apart from the rest by layering it with a dark-colored knitted top. Team it with trousers, pair it with a printed skirt. Spice up your office wardrobe. After all, work should be exciting and inspiring just like your clothes.
- Geared and laced—amp in a loose-fitting white shirt at home, in the comfort of your nest. You have got to admit, it doesn't get cozier or sexier than this.

E-mail the author at jjepperson@inquirer.com.ph

WHITE shirt, P2,000



BLACK dress, P8,950; black belt, P4,250; navy blue purse, P4,950

SWIMSUIT, P1,350; woven bag, P 10,500; belt, P4,950; necklace, P1,950

BLACK bustier top, P2,650; printed skirt, P4,350; printed scarf, P3,650; beige bag, P12,500

BROWN shirt, P1,450; orange belt, P 1,350; orange bag, P 14,500; brown scarf, P4,950

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
FRIDAY, JULY 4
D1

LIFESTYLE

Fashion- and Federer-watching at Wimbledon

His cardigan is a classic. Serena's trench coat is overindulgent. And Sharapova should give her shorts to Nadal so he could stop tugging at his behind

Family weekends are spent (not) over a meal at Mom's. We have much rumoring Maggy stacks that everyone looks forward to weekend after weekend.

Melo

By Georgina Chong
Chief Stylist

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR again when tennis players shed their multi-colors for various shades of white as sign of respect for the traditions of the oldest tennis championship. Wimbledon is all about perfectly manicured lawns, mint-soaked beaches, strawberries and cream, and of course, Roger Federer.

There's a world of gossip this year that has left me perplexed. Some tennis legends just believe and the commentators are saying rather personal[ized] that Federer won't win this year.

In my modest history of tracking at tennis events, this is the first time I have seen a defending champion who's won the last five consecutive years has been deemed even before he could step on court. While I agree that Rafael Nadal has surely improved his play and, if he's even considered, he has a real shot at the trophy, to simply say that Federer won't win is a bit illogical.

When I told the Swiss star how puzzled I was by this talk, like a true gentleman, he comforted me. He said he, too, was surprised, but he would focus on playing like a defending champion.

He said, "I haven't been reading and I haven't been listening to what has been said. So of course, I haven't been affected either."

That's great advice on how to stay cool, composed and nonchalant amid nasty comments by insignificant others.

Burden of success

That's the burden of success, isn't it? There's incessant gossip, scrutiny and criticism. The world's newly crowned No. 1 woman knows this too well.

Jelena Jan Ivanovic, who won the French Open and came into Wimbledon as a runup contender, said, "Becoming No. 1 takes more pressure, but you must see pressure for what it is. It's a reflection of your own ambition. If you see it as a positive thing, it means that you put yourself in a position to be something memorable. If you look at it that way it can be very motivating."

The poor things. However, it's not all gloom and doom for these insanely talented athletes.

The beautiful Irina No. 1, said she feels with the sweet smile, are "confidence and also expectations of achieving one of your biggest dreams and goals."

When you are successful, you are it and achieve greater success. It's chicken and egg. You win, you have more money to invest, power your game by training at better facilities, hiring more coaches and assistants to sort out the daily nitty-gritty so you can focus on perfecting your shots and take even more victory.

THE AUTHOR at Wimbledon

I watched Jelena at the evening practice courts...she has got one hot three guys scrutinizing and letting balls with her, and more importantly, to pick up the balls for her. That's male heaven, she must have been so pick up a ball only twice.

She's seen bounce and credibility by winning, but like most top players, she enjoys an even larger fragrant from endorsements. The ace image model also enjoys the perk of having an outfit customized by Prince for her.

Syncopresan with elegance

This year Federer smiles to the court in a cardigan that is all chic elegance. However, I can't believe there wasn't even one person at Nike USA who had the guts to speak out and advise Serena Williams against wearing her now where trench coat, which she described as delectable. I thought it made her look like a chubby toddler

GROUND staffgirl waits to leave for the court after the rain on the fifth day of the 2008 Wimbledon. AFP

Wimbledon and its regulation white, strawberries, and those sex magnates

GROUND staff members carry Court 1 durie the rain during the fifth day. AFP

Why there's nothing quite like it

By Margie David Collins
Contributor

LONDON—ANDY MURRAY IS A Scot, but tonight, leaning heavily on his 6-foot-6 No.1 friend Lendl in a thrilling home-of-the-match, everyone in the United Kingdom has adopted him at one of their own. This is his first-ever quarterfinals in the grand slams, and we are all rooting for him. The last time a Britain won the men's singles final was 72 years ago, when Fred Perry won it.

On this Sunday-of-summer evening on "Mummy Island," they were all gone, known as Average Pesto Tuscan, fans and spectators wrapped in the Union Jack around themselves, cheered wildly and celebrated Murray's win. We've been here before with Tim Henman; poor blighter in many the heavy siege of British expectations that left spectators, in all seriousness, English rose petals and tournament that is the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club championships, in the leafy London suburb of Wimbledon.

There is nothing quite like it in the world—not the French, Australian and US Opens. The spiritual home of world tennis has, from the beginning, in 1868, as a private English croquet club. Seven years later, lawn tennis was introduced to the club by Walter Clopton Wingfield.

From its roots as a "garden-party" tournament, the first lawn tennis championship was held in 1877. By the turn of the century, Wimbledon had become a prestigious event in the international sporting calendar.

Sexist rants

Today, Wimbledon, the only tennis championships played on grass, is watched by millions of viewers around the world—some tickets, especially for the finals, are touted and are known to change hands for thousands of dollars. Proceeds from the championships usually benefit charities and trusts—Evonne Goolagong Cawley Foundation, whose patron is HRH The Queen, is a notable non-profit body.

We have been entertained this year by Justin Gimelstob, an American pro tennis player who, in a recent radio interview, gave us the benefit of his sexist rants on some of the world's top-ranked female players. "Female tennis players lack social skills. They don't go to high school, they don't go to parties," he said.

A former mixed-doubles champion who commentates on Wimbledon for an American cable channel, Gimelstob described unprotected sex as "exciting" as "a blast." Just despite his to the sensitive level, just before him. She has a great body, but her face is a 3. I wouldn't mind our younger brother, who's a kind of a nerd, and he and then swap the benefits of that." He called Venus Gobrits, ranked 11 in the world, as a "creeper." Opining that there are fewer lesbian players than 15 years ago, he said: "That's because they're all Russian chicks. And there are some cute ones out there." Pants!

Sex magnets

Ah, yes, the sex magnets of Wimbledon. Jet Blue Boris thing, who won the men's title three times in a row, recently said: "I was the first one to market as Wimbledon." Mysterious Swede Jonas Bjorkman grunts in Boris stilettos to gush and touch him. Hewitt described Mirjana Lucic as "consistently a nod," and Amber Blake's and Rafael Nadal's performances on Center Court have caused female fans to swoon.

At his next Gobrits Istanbul 500 red roses and ball boys were known to fight

A WOMAN eats strawberries and cream at the Wimbledon tennis championships.

over her used towels.

Meetings proposals were directed to and marital at Rosenblum who once described herself as an "exotic, expensive item on a pressure cooker that people look at but can never afford." The American Ashley Harkleroad appears undefeated in the August issue of Playboy.

The Lawn sweetheart is the Serbian brunette and top-seeded Ana Ivanovic, who succumbed to straight-sets defeat by unseeded Zheng Jie, a rabbit-eyed native of Hunan in the first round. At Wimbledon, players routinely receive free meal and flowers. Here is a special booth for autograph hunters.

If at likely Roger Federer and either of the Williams girls win this weekend, they each pocket £750,000 (£1,470,000); the guys locate hugging a sterling silver mixed bowl. On Sunday, the all-ever gift cup on valuable is incentives! The All England Lawn Tennis Club Single Hundred Champion of the World."

Painstaking his own triumphs at Wimbledon, Borg said: "It's the greatest tournament in the world; it's the one title that everyone wants to win."

The alluring mystique at Centre Court—which seats 13,000 spectators—is in the observance for decorum, performance, displays of discipline, artistry, strength, and the unwritten power of physical endurance.

English summer

There are 11 glorious days of Wimbledon and, in that time, the grass varieties must have worn and consumed because. The courts are down with 100-percent perennial ryegrass, cut to a height of 8mm; to keep them dry and firm, the courts are rolled and covered when not in use.

An English summer is said to consist of three fine days and a thunderstorm. We've had rained and a bit of rain, but the weather so far has been intermittently sunny and grass-idly benign. The freezer from Wednesday of this second week is to prevent disease of rain. Bugalert and darkness have been sudden, immovers, sunglasses and hats are de rigueur on any day at Wimbledon. Next year, to achieve to the elements, a retractable roof will be in place at Centre Court.

On Sunday, one of Pimms and lemonade will have been imbibed, some 28,000 kg of the finest strawberries grown in Kent and 7,000 litres of cream will have been sold, at £5 a quarter. One hundred and 31 years of the championships at Church Road, London SW19, have seen some spectacular players—Boris Becker, at 17, the youngest player to win the men's singles; Martina Navratilova, who first played at Wimbledon in 1973 and won nine times; Pete Sampras, who won seven times; Fifi Simpson, Arthur Ashe, Steffi Graf.

Regulation white

Today's players are John, Nigeo Safin, Jenny Jobson. The rackets are made of graphite and titanium—more rigid and to build more strokes and F1

VENUS Williams in her own Eleven fashion line. Adventure from her sweetness on the back.

Fashion- and Federer-watching at Wimbledon

RAFAEL Nadal in baggy-long shorts. AFP

SERENA Williams in match coat. Whose are thinking?

Tennis influences fashion

Actually, that's a yes and another yes.

Like Bjorn, Borg's glowing praise of Nadal and public prediction that the Spaniard will win Wimbledon, Nadal said, "Well, Bjorn is a special tennis person, and when Bjorn says something, everybody listens... but you know, Bjorn is not magic." An absolutely human-and-nature observation.

Nadal is, of course, hoping to have another celebration as he broke away from the topic of tennis to talk about Spain at Euro 2008. "We gonna win this year, no doubt." He seems the more confident of that than his own final result at Wimbledon.

Georgina Cheng is the host presenter for 360 Sports' tennis magazine show "Set" showing every Sunday at 10 p.m. Catch more of her tennis blogs and player interviews on www.espnstar.com

Prestige and prima donnas

◆ WIMBLEDON IS ABOUT PRESTIGE, worth £100,000, or 700,000 pounds for the champion (and making summer fashion statements).

◆ It's also about big egos. After all, artistry is what sets the trophy at the old art tennis championships in the world, you would expect the requisite ego treatment. Like being a member of the All England Tennis Club so you can strut around with that little badge on your lapel and go to the lounge room anytime for free beverage.

◆ There was shock and indignation for Amelie Mauresmo discovered that some tool goods there does home. Those of the female top players watched that after fighting so hard to reach the fourth round. They were not going to play on the 15,000-capacity Centre Court and lived by a silliness around the world.

Instead, world No. 2 Jelena Jankovic was confined to see that she'd play on Court 18, a fraction of the capacity of Centre Court. But one to quietly accept her discomfort in life, she proclaimed, "I think that's, 1, No. 1 needs should always be on those top three courts. The opening choice who deserves it, who is on the top of the game should play at those courts. I was almost playing in the parking lot. I almost heard a baby cries to go to my court."

◆ Prestige is another theme at Wimbledon. The teams are reserved to perfection. But there are the most shades of Wimbledon green and purple and the sound of "beats" and tennis are designed by Ralph Lauren. That's fashionista for the summer was peppered white boxer at Centre Court all suited by the hills of ball-dropped and chips inevitably at each player. Hitting pigeons flying overhead and dropping their digested waste like some bombs on you is not exactly elegant.

In Wimbledon's way of dealing with

ANA Ivanovic of Serbia plays it cool and stylish. REUTERS

cars, dandruping and blood tests are routinely carried out after matches. Demand for tickets always exceeds supply. Ball boys and girls, who are chosen from local schools, "retire" after two years to make way for a new crop of recruits. (Young ball students who must pass tests on the rules of tennis and hand-eye coordination.

Players must wear regulation white, but can exercise their fashion flair—or lack of it. To mixed reviews, Ralph Lauren has designed the Club's men's and women's uniforms. The Scottish lad's best bet for eye-catching quarts, but these days, only the Queen carries a vanity and Prince Charles shoes.

The village features that is Wimbledon continues to flaunt, with its open and verdant spaces, quaint shops, cafés, bars and restaurants. Some things will not change—things—things—the air of civility and good manners, pleasure and attitude in rolling each other with courtesy, playing and winning well.

As the English summer would to say, as the rain sticks down on Sunday and we hear the roar of the finals' fireworks and players' semi-finals grants, another Wimbledon over, where the House of Insects have fortified it and once again on the most famous centre court of all, slips into history.

the players problem is by having friends close from away. This year, Hakim, the young Saab, was given that honor when he duly awarded with eight and enthusiasm. I assure you that he doesn't eat the papers, and it's privacy violation.

◆ China's Zheng Jie caused a stir when she first beat World No. 4 Ana Ivanovic. Here another when she made it to her first Grand Slam singles semi-finals. But a tentative tremor ran through the packs of international media when she said she is known all her winnings. In the earthquake-stricken Sichuan province. The international journalists tried to cope fly, as the usual matter tried to divert the line of questioning. "We've here to do tennis questions." But a persistent journalist insisted. "We're here to work. We are not here to listen to just aces, games and points. It's relevant."

A vague inking Zheng finally said she would like to give all her prize money to Sichuan, but she has to give some back to the lenses association. Fortune heard no more perplexed grass-pivs press conference.

◆ Fashion rules at Wimbledon. Fun-spoilers are why Rusty's prince may not have won the field tennis, but she had the best benefit out of someone else's fashion statement. When asked why she felt it was so pleasant to beat Ana Ivanovic, she said, "Well, I don't like her outfit," and that it was one of the motivations to beat her.

GOINGS ON

Jed Madela sings for special kids

JED MADELA will perform in a special benefit concert for special children of Ang Arko ng Pilipinas on July 11, 8 p.m., at Philamlife Theater, United Nations Ave., Manila. Performing with Madela is Rhen Escaños.

For 20 years now, Ang Arko ng Pilipinas has provided a home for abandoned children with neuromotor disabilities as well as de-velopmental center and workshop for kids not only within Arko but also those from surrounding communities in Cainta.

For concert tickets, call Ticketworld at 891-9999 or Ticket-net/Ist. 8894-9200/ 0920-9540552.

Classic Italian fare

Enjoy favorite classic recipes and dozens of useful pasta cooking tips in Classic Pasta, July 5, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Become skilled at cooking a variety of classic pasta trade mainstays Lasagna, Cannelloni, Polenta, Carbonara, Aglio Olio, Ravioli and Homemade Flavored Pasta, Roasted Peppers and Onions with Homemade Sundried Tomato Pesto.

Learn how to create works of art in Basic Cake Decoration, July 5 and 6, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At-tend lecture-workshop on Fundamentals of Cake Decorating; Coloring, Icing (Boiled, Caramel, Chocolate, Sugar, Simple Fondant Icing); Basic Borders, Jelly Lettering and Basic Flowers including Bunching Technique, Individual workshops on Icing Application and Cake Designing are also included plus free cake and decorating tips.

Basic Culinary, July 8-11, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., will introduce you to the building block essentials of great cuisine. This hands-on class focuses on proper hygiene, sanitation and safety, traditional and informal cooking, proper mis-en-place of mirepoix, sauces, soups, stocks, knife and spices, cooking times, proper purchasing, storage, techniques of discovering and tasting poultry, filleting fish and meat fabrication. Actual preparation of dishes from appetizer all the way to dessert including garnishing for plate presentation is also included.

Make Chinese snacks such as Siopao, Siomai, Cuapao, Hopia, Pola Pao, Buchi and Curry Tarts. Classes start July 12, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

In Japanese Fashion Style Cooking, July 12, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., learn Miso Soup, Japanese Beef Curry, Tonkatsu, Mixed Tempura, Kaiti Salad, California Maki and Foods Cravings.

Make Meringue Desserts, July 12, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Enjoy Serenoil, Sylvanas, Brazo de Mercedes, Lemon Meringue Pie, Berries and Cannoggi.

Visit Maya Kitchen, Tuesday-Saturday at the 6/L, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City. Call 892-1180/ 8925041 local 108 or e-mail contactus@themayakitchen.com.

Sun's postpaid plans

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"Now with inches off my waist, pounds off my weight, and my clothes several sizes smaller...
guys simply can't guess my real age!"
Authentic customer statement, March 30 and a past announcement

Feel like you've just stepped out of a magazine's fashion spread, with all the right curves, and toned in all the right places. Zunic fulfills your designer body dreams...costly.

A lady who has just discovered her own designer body explained, "All the treatments were effective in reducing the required centimeters within the given time frame, with only 2 treatments, in 3 hours!"

A male client, who has been going to the gym since 2001, finally reached his goal with the help of Zunic. "Through the expert coaching and the caring treatments, I finally hit the goal I wanted!"

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RYUKICHI Kawaguchi, Sumi and Yuko Adachi, and Richard Young

CONNOY Tuason, Douglas LuYm, Jorge Garcia, Miss Cristeta, Standing: Cheyne Garcia, Deodie Tuason, Rudy and Yasmin Cuenca, Nick Reyes, Bebot Balderian, Vic Tenedor, and Nonoy Tiron

MRS. Baron, Merle Pineda, Playing and Tinging Cupangco. Standing: Ed Pineda Gene Baron Lawyers Bong and Nida Barnes, Yasmin Cuenca, Bobby Cuenca, Baron and John Subec

Bash marks 80th birthday, 60th wedding anniversary

COSMO-MANILLE'S OLD-WEALTH society were present when popular couple Rudy Cuenca and Yasmin Garden celebrated their 80th birthday and their 60th wedding anniversary as one, dahlings.

The fun night became a trip down memory lane for Rudy and his dancer classmates like Cesar Concio, and fellow contractors such as Bobby Crabbe and BF Otto, and close pals from abroad such as Isao Adachi, former president of Mondomi America.

Rudy's Magsaysay relatives, such as Anita Magsaysay-Ho and Tess Jose Magsaysay, were among the guests.

Also there were Richard Young, president of Toronto Yachting, and Rudy's golf buddies from Manila Golf and Cebu, and some 300 other guests from the elite extended, palengke.

Mot was told that Rudy and Yasmin had actually eloped when both were barely 19, would you believe? They subsequently married.

They have four children—Bobby, Mary Ann, Ricky and "Head" Rodolfo Jr.—and 11 grandchildren, nine of whom live abroad.

For this special occasion, Ricky flew in from San Francisco with his wife and four children.

As a gift to their grandparents, Diamond Aguinaldo, Sebron and Lorenzo Cuenca sang as a trio. Another grandchild, Patricia Cuenca, sang a solo, while Elisa Binamira gave a special dance performance.

The musical entertainment was provided by Sandra Lim-Wong, the Overtones (a Baguio band discovered by Rudy) and home-resident Jay Cayuca.

Aptly the performances, the chi-chi emcee couldn't wait so much to the dance floor and rock hard, elbow to elbow, dahlings.

Would you believe, mot did a French at 2 a.m. and the bash was still on a roll. Hey, that's what I call partying, dahlings.

Thai food fest

Manchale Oriental Manila's very popular Prince Otto recently hosted an excellent Thai food festival that brought to town four master chefs from The Oriental Bangkok.

The festival was held in partnership with Thai Airways, Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) and The Oriental Bangkok, with the support of Royal Thai Embassy. It was opened by Thai Ambassador Kukiat and Singhara Na Ayudhaya who briefly talked about the "Thirty-Thirty of Thai cuisine and culture."

Thai Airways' dynamic country manager

MOL International chef Lorna Reynoso and Asian Spirit chair Noni Cruz

CUENCA clan. Sandra, Bobby, Chinglee, Yasmin, Mary Ann Tiron, Minerva, Selena and Patricia. Standing: Lorenzo, Hugo, Rodolfo Jr., Tina Tiron, Rodolfo Sr., Head, Boy Tiron and Ricky Cuenca

CESAR Concio

EVELYN Forbes cooks up a great party with Ramon Quisumbing. Standing: Manny Garcia, Rodrigo Cuenca, Doris Magsaysay-Ho, Yasmin Cuenca, Nick Lerner and John Forbes

SABINE Evans and Glenn Linsaman. Standing: Yasmin Cuenca, Cory Quirino, Mary Ann Tiron and Isabel Wilson

CHINO Santos-Concio

ANITA Ho, Jun Magsaysay and Kaky Cuenca seeing serenaded by Jay Cayuca

CARLA Reyes Tengco, Maria Huezo and Vicky Zobel

PHILIPPINE Tourism Authority of Thailand marketing representative Clara de Jesus and chef Sompas Sumpadapanont

BANKER Andrew Gan, Mandarin Oriental Hotel director of communication Charlee Chaidee and Glen Carandang

CECILE Reynoso

FESTIVAL FATEUR. Al Fregos, Johnny Velazquez and ace photographer Alex van Hagen

Noel Chantawichod and VP marketing representative to the Philippines Saruy-dej Intasa, chief chimi-hunter for the Amazing Thailand food campaign, helped in the ribbon-snipping. Also morning to the opening was Mandarin Oriental's executive assistant manager Oliver Revanor.

The Oriental's executive sous chef Suanot Sampachaiyanont and his team were joined in by Thai literary, extraordinaire. They cooked superb Thai dishes that were inexpensive! (see Pinoy Don't lunch and dinner but). Aside from Thailand's gastronomy delights, guests were treated to awesome glimmerings such as a stay at the Oriental Bangkok Hotel courtesy of TAT.

Not missing this happening were chef Sid Quinones, Margaux Salcedo, Lori Bellanca, Sonny Boies Lamuet, Bobby Cuenca and Mary Ann Ojeda... all foodies.

From the Thai Embassy, present were deputy chief of mission Chakarn Sudsiva, economic Rosi Bhalesuodana, second secretary for economics and protocol Pakapol Tanthevaraung, second secretary for information Parudee Chooeit and Sumana Poosong.

Also there were banker Andrew Gan, Glen Carandang and rest. (I heard right there and then a welcome dinner for visiting chef Lorrie Reynoso, who's usually my host when I'm in New York.)

Also enjoying the food were Pepper Barcelona, Tobie (ellen Romo San Diego, ace photographer Alex van Hagen, charity organizer Vicky Zobel, restaurateur Al Fregos, gourmand Carlo Bayot, beautiful nursery Johnny Velazquez and Mariel Manuel, Anton Mezdeen, Aaji Dingcong, Noel Glorioso and Cecille Reynoso Moreno.

No wonder, with the ensuing success of the gastronomic event, the Mandarin's public relations doyen Charlene G. Chuidian was in closet-size palengke.

New Renaissance restaurant

On July 8, Tuesday, the Renaissance Makati City Hotel will hold a strictly by-invitation-only grand bash to formally open 812M (as in, morning is midnight!) and Cocoabar, dahlings.

Supposed to attend the opening are leaders of business and diplomacy as well as our mayor's alter-consulted.

Bobby Carmona will direct the opening event, which will have a "Bar-young Hollywood theme," organizers said.

Mot was told that 812M is the hotel's "all-day and all-night dining venturance." Aside from its lively main dining area, 812M will have private areas for wine-cheese parties.

There is a dramatic Wine Room that "has an awesome "wine wall" in brick and terra cotta finishing, making one feel as if in a wine cellar, palengke.

There's also the Private Room, which can sit as many as 24 people in one dining table, and the Bar Lounge, with its rich and super cool interiors. Meanwhile, Cocoabar is a hip bar lounge with a boutique bar, outdoor patio and chic main area. It's a perfect place to chill out during the day and listen to live bands in the night.

Both 812M and Cocoabar are open all hours of the day, every day. Well, you'll know where to find me come July 8, palengke. Catch you there!

Nocom's classics with modern silhouette

DARK single-breasted side-lapel jacket and matching flat-front pants reveal wide, a blue button-down shirt, and a stripe textured necktie

SM DESIGNER AUTHORITY Nocom has released his latest corporate menswear collection, which takes into consideration 24/7 lifestyles, present styles and the cut once often associated with the corporate world. At a time when image is everything, it is important to be dressed for the part.

"Classic with a modern silhouette, collared and relaxed elegance" are the words Nocom uses to describe his latest collection. His suits have a relaxed carnival elegance. Much attention is given to details to achieve the sharp look.

His blue and brown jackets are lent with narrow lapels for a toned down elegant look that goes on well with slim fit pants. Contrasting details such as collars and cuffs give classic misdemeanor check and striped shirts a modern vibe. The necktie's new look is slim, narrow, mostly in two-tone colors of striped and textured patterns.

The stubborn Nocom corporate collection is available at the Men's Wear department of all SM stores.

DARK brown and new-taped single-breasted jacket with matching side-zip pants worn over skinny, narrow misdemeanor check-tailored shirt and tone-grown patterned tie

BLACK peak-lapel slim-cut jacket with matching narrow flat-front pants. White short-cuff striped shirt and striped necktie complete look.

STRIPED single-breasted jacket with matching side-zip pants worn over skinny, narrow misdemeanor check-tailored shirt and tone-grown patterned tie

Black is still 'the new black'

WITH ALL THE QUIBBLING THAT black is juvenile and passé, and the innocuous fad forecasts that parody the glamour "it is the new black," the subcosmetic color remains undaunted as the ultimate statement of style, elegance and power in the pillars of fashion. Black is the color of prestige, which is why formal occasions are referred to as black tie functions and performers of serious art music dress in black for concerts.

At the recently concluded Philippine Fashion Week in its new home, the SMX Convention Center, local designers proved their mettle worthy of being pitted against the world's best in chic creations of cosmopolitan and avant-garde attire as well as formal and luxury wear in black fabrics of lace, stretch, jersey, taffeta, linen and chiffon. Dressed! Black Magic, a product of the 122-year old German brand leader, Henkel, was the official black fabric laundry detergent of the Philippine Fashion Week that helped to bring out the depth and luster of black color in the garments used for this year's 120 designers in their Black Collections.

On its 13th year of successfully providing a venue for showcasing the Filipino designer's artistry for love, the Philippine Fashion Week has launched the careers of designers from all over the country; Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Cagayan De Oro, Pampanga, Rizal, Laguna, Cavite, Quezon and Metro Manila, partnering with global companies so that Filipinos are updated in the latest products, trends and technology in joining with Bewell Black, the laundry detergent that provides reliable black color protection to black fabrics, the Philippine Fashion Week unfolded the endings of prestigious fashion

DESIGNER Mich Dulce, Luxe Wear Collection II

BLACK

consciousness, proving once and for all, that black is here to stay.

Dressed! Black Magic Bubble Laundry Detergent is for washing black articles only.

Dawn Zulueta's fab shopping finds

"THERE IS SOMEWHERE SOMEONE SHE EXISTS" the my budget-saving skills. I'm wiser now," says Robinsons Department Store's (RSS) celebrity endorser Dawn Zulueta when asked how having a wife and mother has changed her shopping style. "I feel a bigger responsibility now that I have a family and other people relying on me when it comes to making the right choices in terms of what is safe, healthy and comfortable."

The best part of shopping is "the hunt" I tell. Whenever she has the chance, Dawn researches her favorite things at Robinsons Department Store. She is drawn to the Lather Pérou, Vitalik and Bruney Toys and Gloves lines as well as the Bestsellers Depot finest.

A woman who loves to decorate her home, Dawn adores beautiful wallpaper, gorgeous drapery and cushions, rich and natural fabrics with varying textures, pleasure textiles and decorations. She is closely someone who understanding but she loves to satisfy her shopping style. She is glad RSM is there to cash her shopping needs.

"I decorate things that I enjoy looking at but for the most part, I decorate for functionality," Dawn explains. While she likes every corner of their home to have a story or to be a treat for the senses, things should always serve a practical purpose. She delights in the Homelines section where one can find an assortment of candles, picture frames, cell boxes, art and jars, stylish throw pillows, curtains, ceramic figurines, stylish lampshades, kitchen essentials as well as classy and comfortable linen and bedding essentials.

A marvelous shopper, Dawn checks out sale events, goes online to see if there are sales or designs and cost options for a particular product and sometimes asks her friends' opinions about a certain item. "I don't buy an item just because the price seems reasonable or it's pretty. I still need to know I am getting my money's worth for every purchase. So, having good customer service by knowledgeable sales personnel is a plus factor," she explains.

That's why Robinsons Department Store is on top of her shopping destinations. "RSS carries quality products at very reasonable prices. It suits my every standard in this area where I am confident that what I find is always a 'good steal.' And what do I love most about Robinsons Department Store? It's the fact that they give inspirations to those who can only wish for the finished look. I've been asked more than once if my printed silk top was bought from some high-end, exclusive

boutique. Surprise, surprise! It's from Robinsons Department Store!" she enthuses.

Shopping can also become bonding materials for Dawn and her adorable son, Jacobo. "I take the opportunity to teach him something new like proper manners, words, respect and virtues like patience. "Being a devoted and overachieving mother, Dawn considers safety and quality first before fussy or trend when shopping for her son.

She also believes that even when looking for gifts for loved ones, rewarding oneself is also important: "I buy an addition to my wardrobe, like a new bag, shoes or outfit or even a nice set of jewelry sometimes."

Robinsons Department Store is located in Robinsons Malls, Robinsons' Malls, Starmall and Festival Mall in Alabang; Sta Mall Pasay, Galleria and Ortigas; Puregold Metrowalk and Cumbertal Mall, Cagayan de Oro City.

DAWN with son Jacobo

DAWN Zulueta checks out gifts for loved ones at Robinsons Department Store

Drink milk tea to put you in good mood

TRYING A BRAND REVITALIZER AND helps you enjoy life despite its rumbles.

"I'm always out doing field work as an entertainment news reporter. I usually cover events, premieres, and interview celebrities and personalities," shares broadcast journalist Marie Lozano. "I like to take my breaks after a task is done. An example would be after an interview, before I write my story. It's a simple reward to take a breather and have a simple cup of tea. It keeps me more focused."

Tea is known to have a chock full of flavanols, a naturally occurring amino acid found only in tea that stimulates the brain leaving you in a positive, calm and happy disposition. This is in stark contrast to caffeine, as Joan Jurio-Di will tell you.

Joan says coffee makes her hands all jittery—something which can't happen since he is responsible for making everyone look more beautiful as one of the country's most in-demand makeup artists.

Lipton puts more fun into tea by giving it a merry mix of milk. All the healthy goodness of tea combined with the creaminess of milk and you have Lipton Milk Tea, a nutritious and tasty beverage that gives you real good vibes. "My mom has always been a tea drinker but I never really liked it until I took it with milk," says Marie. "I love how it tastes and that I get calcium from drinking it."

"I had my first taste of milk tea in Hong Kong a long time ago and I loved it!" said bubbly fashion designer Rain Torralba. "The creamy texture and aroma gets me it hooked." After drinking Lipton Milk Tea, Rain says she gets a feeling of "smooth and comfort. "It puts me in a good mood," she adds.

Even the busy bee that she is, Rain regularly has customers piling in her Greenbelt 5 store for consultations and also has been working on her upcoming fashion shows and weddings. Being in a good mood reflects in Rain's cheerful and colorful fashion creations. "When I'm in a good mood, I'm hyper, funny, and generous! I also get things done really quickly."

She spreads good cheer around through a happy conversation, a bouncy joke, or through music. "Real sincere Lipton Milk Tea obviously gets me in a good mood... I get to share the positive vibes anytime, anywhere by sharing my Lipton Milk tea!"

Joan shares his days can be long and tiring—sometimes even lasting up to 18 hours depending what her in on a shoot for TGC or print ad. During breaks, he satisfies up with his co-workers, eats, and takes his delicious dose of tea. He is also health-conscious preferring to stay away from the fatty and oily food that is some times served during a shoot. "I bring my own food and drinks. I like that Lipton Milk tea comes in a pack because it's very convenient to take around and easy to prepare." Tea also gives Joan a happy disposition. "Hot bring in a good brew of tea to the corpse of my work."

JOAN Jurio

MARIE Lozano

Register Now and Join the Fit & Fun 5KM WELLNESS BUDDY RUN

July 27, 2008, 6:00AM, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig

At Stake: Trip for 2 to Shangri-La Mactan Cebu Plus a Chi Spa Treatment

Running Buddies must **START** and **FINISH** together

Robinsons Supermarket

Come race with a buddy at Robinsons Supermarket's 'Fit and Fun, 5km Wellness Buddy Run' on July 27, at the back of NBC tent, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. Team up with your wife, child or friend and be one of the 500 pairs to register for the race. Runners must run in pairs and finish together.

At stake is a trip for two to Shangri-la Mactan, Cebu plus a rejuvenating Chi Spa Treatment for the first couple who crosses the finish line. Second to tenth placers get P4,000 Robinsons gift certificates.

July 27, 2008 Sunday
Back of NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig
Assembly: 5:00 a.m.
Race Start: 6:00 a.m.

ENTRY FEE: PhP 500 for each pair of **Running Buddies** including singlets

Register now at these Robinsons Supermarket branches: Metrowest, Galleria, Commonwealth, Ermita, and the Forum, Pioneer. For a registration fee of P500 per pair, get a race pack which already includes two singlets for the race. All finishers will get a loot bag and enjoy workout demonstrations by fitness experts with celebrity host Paolo Abrera at the fun run.

Fit and Fun is part of the Wellness and Nutrition Festival, a month-long promo that offers discounts on healthy products and exciting events to loyal shoppers.

The Wellness and Nutrition Festival runs from July 1-31 at all Robinsons Supermarket branches.

The Wellness and Nutrition Festival

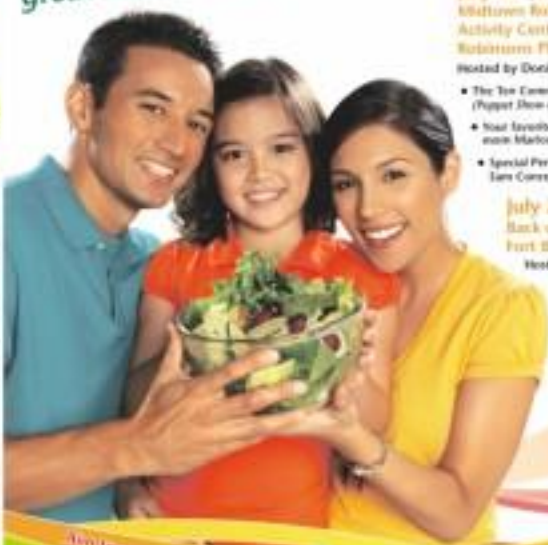
July 1-31, 2008

Enjoy a healthy lifestyle with great deals and fun activities!

July 19 (Saturday, 2PM)
Midtown Robinsons Activity Center, Robinsons Place Manila
Hosted by Sam Oh
- Belly Dancing with Jill Ngo-Crisologo of Peak Performance
- Health secrets for all ages with Derek Ramsay, Cory Quirino and Ollo Lim
- Kelly Kelly the Musical by Unilever

July 20 (Sunday, 2PM)
Midtown Robinsons Activity Center, Robinsons Place Manila
Hosted by Donita Rose
- The Ten Commandments of Health (Puppet Show on proper nutrition)
- Your favorite bands with celebrity mom Marisol Laso-Pangilinan
- Special Performances by Sam Concepcion

July 27 (Sunday)
Back of NBC tent, Fort Bonifacio
Hosted by Paolo Abrera
- Fit & Fun
- Cool down with Fitness First workout demos



Nestle good health and share a great weekend with Robinsons Supermarket

Eat Well Spend Less

LIFESTYLE

Contributing Editor Ria Francisco-Prieto

Achieve paths of enlightenment amidst hustle and bustle

With the paths of enlightenment with Mindoro Zen gardens in The Grand Midori Makati. A new residential haven rising in the heart of the country's premium business and lifestyle district.

This park is designed to let you free your mind and soul from everyday worries. Breathe in, relax, and achieve inner peace.

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The Grand Midori Makati

Federland-Orix Corporation

BEAUTY

Top 5 things to stay away from

Here's a 5-step formula to stay beautiful, youthful and healthful

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

LIKE SAYING no a diet but still drinking your fave coke, that's how I see moisturizing and smoking.

Smoking

Smoking aces against the aging of the skin. Giving it, causing discoloration and wrinkles, weakening the skin's elasticity. The effects may come out either sooner or later (even some 10 years), so if you are 30 now and a smoker, you may wake up at 40 to find out your skin has aged terribly, aging is irreversible unless you want to have Botox done to fill up those lines earlier than usual.

I'm not saying I'm against Botox, but I want to be spokesnot and think I would consider it when I'm 60 so I could look 40.

So staying away from smoking and smokers all together will do a lot of good for your health and your skin. At least it would save your pockets from paying for pricey Botox.

Tanning

The sun is aging. So unless you've smooth amount of SPF and lives religiously you apply it, you are still tanning your skin. Yeah it does tanning looks on bad for your skin, I suggest using self-tanners or better yet just hitting the gym or get that healthy glow. Besides, skin cancer is a very painful deadly disease.

Junk food

Take care also of your diet. You are what you eat, so dump that junk!

Junk food causes breakouts. Also, food entering inside your mouth, for better drinking your next soda, consider your smile.

Cosmetics sharing

Remember it is not always good to share, especially when pertaining to cosmetics and tools.

Several irritations and diseases can be transferred, such as pink eye, ringworm and eye, to say the least.

Bacteria thrive in cosmetics and tools, so clean them consistently, and do not share to prevent transference.

Pessimistic pals

Lastly, pessimistic people will only pull you down, making you frown and causing your skin to wrinkle.

Smiling adds to youth and makes you attractive. So stick to optimistic friends and load up on silver lining.

"AMERICA'S Next Top Model" shows the harmful effects of the sun

Fabuless Fair

Enjoy fabulous looks at fantastic prices in the Shopwise Health and Beauty Fair.

Pond's White Beauty Lightening Facial Foam 100g
P118.50 only

Garnier Light Whiten & Protect Moisturizing Cream 50ml
P284.05 only

Belo Essentials Pore Minimizing Whitening Face Wash 100ml
P125.00 only

Eskinol Classic Whitening Facial Cleanser 135ml
P37.75 only

Skin White Power Whitening Face Solution 30ml
P36.75 only

Nivea DNAge Zone Action 30ml
P550.75 only

From July 1-August 17, 2008, Shopwise is giving you a fabulous promo! Visit the store and guess how much cash is in our Priceless chest or the value of any of our Health and Beauty showcases for a chance to become one of our fabulous winners!

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HEKBOKOMOK — BY JOMAR TEJIDO

A. LIPIN — BY JESS ABELLA

PULDOK — BY RAPUANO DATUPINUMBUNG

PUGAD BABOY — BY PH. JUNIOR

DIVINE COMEDY — BY ETHEN Nabuliner

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

SALAPAW — BY DARWIN PEREZ

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY — BY LIRA GARCELLANO

LOVEKNOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHOENGLO

KIKO MACHINE — BY MANNY ARRIOLA

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Homecoming team
5 Sphenoid bones
10 Be premature on
14 Chilean coin
15 Quadruplet quintet
16 Sorenson's comedies
17 Tawdry
18 Wisdom unit
21 Queen of Carthage
22 Bitch, of fashion
23 Tattoo
25 Orchestra instrument
27 Tempting condiment
34 Lunch name
35 CEO, today
36 Weep noisily
37 Pan transducer, etc.
38 Fiesta or Spike
39 Thrill
41 Thurber Award
42 Immunosuppressive drug letters
44 Chalk homework
46 Handbag accessory
48 Today's totems
50 Adhan of monotheism
51 Crowd, aptly
52 Children's classic
53 Hadn't
57 Hoist on a stick
61 Today's song
62 Lion on a case
63 Dad boomers
64 Weed killer
65 Mount Ida
66 Ham bone
67 Tip-off numbers?

DOWN
1 Plain jane
2 Broken part
3 Seasons made of cloth
4 Dismantling
5 U.K. home
6 Tight spots
7 ___ canaliculi, in some eye
8 Mock-up assembly
9 Wrestler's "I'm history!"
10 Actor Morgan
11 Rebel
12 Longoria and Lopez
13 "Ed Mirror" Martha
19 Bird-brained
20 Dissertation material
24 Casino scams
26 Lab. Procedure
28 Entrance of Hogwart
29 Sweden, colloquially
30 Pitcher's stat
31 Plan-related
32 "Un-Hero in Watertown" actor
33 Have an inkling
35 Bun the size
36 Mileage hits
40 Animal
41 Used a Q-Tip
44 Mythical Hooker
45 Guarded a home
47 Bird in Kipling
49 Lacy, to cooks
50 Duchess
54 Sonic, NFL, Monsanto
55 Bike hornets
56 Elegant idiom
58 Boring, talking
59 Bird in Kipling
60 Work in Kipling

By John Underwood
New York, NY

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DALISAY

YOU BORN TODAY: You are a person of your own personality in, can take life seriously. There is very little that you have much difficulty. You have working with people. You value your family and you value your home. You want to make the world a better place, and you generally do so, in fact your actions alone. It is a shame, therefore, that you are frequently misunderstood. Birthdays of: Prolific journalist, gone disappointed Abraham Van Buren, ex-businessman Ann Landers and fatigued star Bruce Jenner, less adored celebrities.

ARIES (March 21 to April 20): You are a hot-headed, physical sort. Love others, and embrace hard, pummeling. Accept confrontation in sports. Enter events and attend parties with celebrities.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Although you're on a pleasant, lucky streak, you'll soon hastily throw in the towel. Don't be so quick to leave home today. Invite your friends in. Fraternize, even with strangers. You'll be eager to talk to others, because you have something important to say.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You are in an unpleasant, left-brain phase, and the best in your sign. It's a good occasion to spend time your head around math today. Did you feel like that in a previous incarnation? Is that why?

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Everyone is so impressed with your brain today, and the fact that you're so pretty, it's a good occasion to spend time your head around math today. Did you feel like that in a previous incarnation? Is that why?

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You might feel more emotional than usual today. Don't let a passing cloud in the future be in your sign. Remember, it brings you good luck, and makes you look more attractive to others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You feel like unfortunately, everyone knows you better around you today. You need some quiet time to get your act together before you take it on the road.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Conversations with a certain person may be more than you bargained for today. You might feel unusually protective about someone. Hopefully, protective feels like sexy attraction.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): In the course of your day, you will do something with someone that makes unexpected personal revelations. Be careful not to say anything you'll regret later. Some friends, it will be about your personal, private life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You are in a very good mood today. Do somebody a favor. Some of your interactions with people from different cultures and backgrounds. You seem to learn something new, and you excel in the adventure!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Financial matters, both personal and those friends, especially stocks soared unexpectedly, are on your mind. You're not willing to gamble on something. You want to be effective.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Someone is trying to get you to do what you want, but you don't have to go more than halfway. Don't be overly accommodating. Know what it's in his best interest.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You have been busy lately, so take up things and get better organized. You don't have to spend all day, even one hour could make a big difference in things.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — By Dave Clemo

				9	6	8		
						5		
9	7		4					
8						1		
5				4				3
		6						5
					5		2	7
		4						
		8	6	1				

TM Puzzle Level: ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	8	2	3	5	1	7	9	6
5	1	7	6	9	8	4	2	3
9	6	3	7	2	4	5	8	1
8	5	1	4	3	2	6	7	9
6	3	4	8	7	9	1	5	2
7	2	9	5	1	6	8	3	4
2	4	5	9	6	7	3	1	8
3	9	8	1	4	5	2	6	7
1	7	6	2	8	3	9	4	5

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SUBTLE cat's eye

BLEND to perfection

BOLD lips

Try these new hot looks

THE CURRENT RUNWAY LOOKS ARE wearable, gorgeous and easy enough for anyone to do at home. The trick is looking supermodel-sultry is to focus on one part of the face at a time. As in fashion, you reveal some parts of your body and conceal others. You don't have it all at once.

The same applies here. You can't emphasize your features if you make it all stand out at the same time. You must apply make-up considerately, giving each facial feature its chance. Maximize your beauty potential with these beauty trends you have to try.

Isabel Baum, Recharge Pro

Subtle cat eyes. Contour your eye with a golden caramel shadow before brushing liquid liner as close to the upper lash line as possible. Start from the outer corners, create the wing shape, then fill in. The wing lifts the eyes and makes you look younger. Sweep on three coats of mascara and go easy on the rest of the face. Accent the cheeks by applying a berry blush to the apples and a berry gloss to match your lips. With such dramatic eyes, you wouldn't need to do much to the rest of your face.

Glowing cheeks. Use peach and berry tones to give porcelain skin a misty glow. After applying concealer on your tender eyes, swirl peach blush onto the apples of your cheeks to warm up the complexion. Sweep a berry tone outside the apples to add dimension to the cheekbones. Then stain lips with a light berry gloss.

Maximize your beauty by focusing on one part of the face at a time

GLOWING skin

Air the try sheer on the eyes, use a base of teal eye shadow all over the lids, then smudge the top and inner of the eye with a white powder shadow. You can also line the bottom inner rims of the eye with white pencil. The white touches brighten the eye and give this sweet lush an edge. Then add mascara on the top lashes only.

Bold red lips. Always line your lips when doing a red mouth. Choose a shade (pencil that matches your red lipstick. For a perfect inner-line application, start at the base of the lips, then bring color out to the sides and into a matte color. Glossy red lips are harder to maintain as they easily smudge the teeth and outer lines of the lip. Sculpt the cheekbones by brushing a muted pink blush. Then line the eyes with a dark black liner. Work as close to the lash line as you can. This makes the lashes look fuller, so you don't need false ones. To finish off, apply mascara.

PHOTOS OF MODELS FOR THIS IMAGE BY HONDA MANILA STD

My beauty secret?
Vitamin C!

NAME: BINA VILLANUEVA
Age: 26
Occupation: General Manager of Asia Advisors

Vitamin C. I take one 500mg tablet daily and increase the dosage if I have a cold. Vitamin C is a high antioxidant, which helps remove free radicals in order to repair the skin from within. Ultimately, it is also good for the skin!

Malou Evers, GMA ethical action

Then synthetically (unusually severe acid and add to premature ageing as well as an increased risk of cancer, particularly if you smoke and/or drink. Vitamin C leaves the skin looking more radiant, and can be taken topically or as a supplement to aid overall health. I use both.

A good topical line on both are by Murad, which is enriched with Vitamin C. Daily exercise is also important, as sweating everyday helps remove toxins.

BINA Villanueva

Never underestimate the power of exfoliation

Get smooth, glowing skin

HEALTHY, GLOWing skin is the ultimate accessory. It can raise confidence levels (and hemlines) and make anyone look good.

Noble warriors can instantly strip away our skin's moisture, which is why it is important to plan a counterattack to fight the dryness. Trouble spots like the elbows, knees and feet easily lose their moisture. If the problem is ignored, they will start to get tough and leathery.

The skin around the calves is also prone to dryness, with fewer oil glands in this area.

Slathering on moisturizer may not be enough to smoothen out extremely dry skin. Add these steps to your bath-time regimen to reveal radiant new skin.

Kelly Hilo, Zuska of the trunk

Exfoliate. Healthy skin renews itself every 28 days, but the process slows down as we grow older. Regulate this cycle by exfoliating once a week with a thick, grainy scrub (opt for sea salt, sugar or microbeads) and scrub on the areas that need attention. But remember, exfoliating should never hurt. If you have sensitive skin, it may be better to just skip this part.

Scrub. Regularly scrubbing with a loofah or a washcloth can gradually smoothen out flesh or flaky skin. Choose a moisturizing body wash over soap and give your skin a good pampering.

Moisturize. After stepping out of the shower, pat yourself with a towel and reach for the lotion (or body oil, if you prefer). Apply the moisturizer when the skin is a little damp to lock the water in your skin.

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BEA CHIC Wander by not forgetting your beauty essentials.

What you should always have in your bag

NEW YORK—A skill I've mastered over the years is how to pack on a moment's notice. Coming from a family of diehard enthusiasts (myself not linked to it), I grew up hearing the words "Pack light!" as my cousins and I marched the adults stuff the trunk with bulky regalements, first and tasks, leaving us little crushing our comfort backpacks are our keys in the backseat of the car.

Over the years I would get more practice as I went on press trips and junkets to various places. From being a thirteen-year-old struggling with yet another hand-me-down carrier (and later an ill-adapting a love for Zipfer) to having way too many cat bottles for a three-day trip, here is what I learned: Leave the excess at home, adopt a carefree attitude and carry these essentials:

Hazel Chua, Assistant Lifestyle Editor

1. Moisturizer with SPF

The weekend is when you don't fuss about foundation, powder, or even mascara. A friend instructor like Dermalogica Show The Moisture SPF15 is a multi-tasker you shouldn't leave home without. It softens flaky spots, fills in creases, gives a sheer wash of skin-tone color, and protects from harmful UV rays.

2. Facial wash

Thanks to facial wash, what's beginner. Aside from having your face squeaky clean, it can also be used as body soap (saves a bath puff), shave cream, and even as a facial cleanser. The best part is, if you forget to pack it in your rush, it's sold everywhere!

3. Bottle sprayer

Mix 50ml of isopropyl alcohol with 5 to 10 drops of an essential oil of your choice (Coconut Lavender is fine). Put in a small spray bottle. Use this as hand sanitizer, shoe spray, cologne, hair refresher and even to clean the toilet.

4. Plastic container

Whatever you decide to bring on your trip, make sure your beauty pouch is lined in plastic. If it's the fabric kind, now's the time to load up on zip-top bags. This ensures your surface of flexible provides to natural offering of lotts at your destination, and not on the insides of your toothbrush.

The fragrance for a multi-faceted woman

GIVENCHY PARFUMS introduces Ange ou Démon, an alluring and mysterious fragrance that captures the spirit of contradiction in every woman—darkness and light, innocence and wisdom, purity and sensuality. Ange ou Démon? It begs to ask in complete bewilderment. The choice is never as simple as it seems. Ange ou Démon debunks feminine stereotypes by embracing a woman's multi-faceted nature. She is tradition and pure, devilish and seductive, a femme fatale and an inspiration all rolled into one luminous character whose spell is as powerful as it is tender, bitter and yet sweet, venomous but healing.

Ange ou Démon is a floral oriental scent in enigmatic as its wearer. Unfolding gently with a subtle dose of white thyme, mandarin, and saffron, the fragrance blends into a floral heart of lily, ylang-ylang, and orchid before finishing off with warm vanilla, tonka bean, and oak wood essences. It is packaged in a bottle resembling a cloaked voyeur: dressed to please with sharp angles that reflect light and shadow, a play on the fragrance's theme.

Exclusively available in Rustan's Marketing Corporation, Ange ou Démon by Givenchy EDT is available at all leading department stores in 30 ml at Php 2,300; 50 ml at Php 3,000; and 100 ml at Php 3,950.

Chin-Chin Gutierrez, Godiva launch zero-waste campaign in Tondo

GODIVA SUPPORTS THE ENVIRONMENT with the launch of its Zero-Waste Campaign for ICT Tayuman.

Living up to its mission and vision of sustaining both inner and outer beauty through products that promote protection of Mother Nature, Godiva has teamed up with Ahgas L.A.H.A.T., the environmental advocacy group founded by actress/advocate and Godiva endorser Chin-Chin Gutierrez, to jumpstart a Zero-Waste campaign in Tayuman, Tondo.

It is shared advocacy with its exclusive, GodIva recognizes the importance of social and sustainable living. Over the years, Godiva has been manufacturing skin care products that are made from all-natural ingredients, as well as educating consumers on the Earth-friendly features of these products. Thus, it was not surprising that the company chose Chin-Chin, a Time Magazine Asian Hero for the Environment, to be the face of Godiva, and that they partner in projects that will promote ecological awareness.

The "Zero-Waste Tayuman" project aims to reduce the waste problem in Tayuman through educating community leaders and volunteers on the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act (RA 9003), leading to the establishment of MRF's or Materials Recovery Facilities within its 44 barangays. The facilities will help the community in the proper management of their biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes.

In support of this advocacy and in line with the company's commitment to "nurture nature," Godiva co-sponsored the educational component of the project, which included training and speaker-planning seminars by the barangay leaders, parish volunteers and other community representatives. The project is spearheaded and supervised by Ahgas L.A.H.A.T., where Chin-Chin is the founding chair and president, in close cooperation with the Immaculate Conception Parish, through its rector, Monsignor Matt Garcia.

"Zero-Waste Tayuman" was launched recently at the Immaculate Conception Parish. The event started with an 8:00 a.m. ecological tours presided by Msgr. Garcia, followed by a parade and a program attended by barangay leaders and volunteers, parish pastoral workers, local police heads from different precincts and other supporters of the campaign.

AHGAS L.A.H.A.T. with volunteers from the Parish church and Manila Cathedral School

The scent that evokes masculine strength

BOSS PURE, A NEW FRAGRANCE for men pays tribute to wearer's purity, freshness, and power. Subtle, sophisticated and fresh, the fragrance captures the sensuality and refreshing of a man armed with nature's pure cosmopolitan force. His strength of character flows from within, like a forceful current of water washing past. The Boss Pure man lives to the challenge with a strength comparable to nature's innate force. The fragrance is a celebration of his oneness with water according to a combined force of pure and sensual.

The very first fragrance in the Boss by Hugo Boss franchise to focus on freshness as its main concept, Boss Pure has a woody fresh character with a top note of pure water accord giving way to a refined heart note of fig and tangerine. It is sealed with a strong and balanced base note of mandela wood. The fragrance evokes masculine strength as its purest form. Boss Pure is presented in a transparent square flacon with a full chrome backing to reflect its masculine characteristics. The fragrance juice comes in the purest blue, taking from its square inspiration.

Exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corporation, Boss Pure (EDT) is available in all leading department stores at 75ml (Php4,150); 50ml (Php3,250); and 30ml (Php2,450).

Trimming and taming short hairstyles

MAKEOVER 911

Kinoy Salas-Antiporo

WOMEN WITH SHORT hairstyles have been asking me to find reasonably priced skilled stylists for them.

Short hair, especially the boy-cut variety, is more of a hassle to maintain compared to long flowing styles. Women need to go for trims more often to keep the shape.

At times, when they go cheap on a haircut, it ends up growing outwards in all directions, puffing up on the sides while going flat on top.

Thanks to relatives of mine who volunteered for this road test, I recommend two great choices for women with short hairstyles: Philosophy Salon's Raimee and Annie, who charge P350 for men and P400 for women.

They do not give the same haircut to every person as they take into account the hair's natural texture and the shape of the face.

With the two's history, one can go as long as three months up to a month without a cut, the hair will remain tamed, styled and well shaped.

For appointments, call 0917 554 1174 for inquiries.

Off limits to women

Fitzsimmons, according to Dr. Adolfo "Jhun" Bautista, the hair-loss fighting tablet, has been cleared off limits for all women, especially for those in child bearing age as it may cause feminizing of a male fetus.

The good news is there are more hair-loss preventive products that work more successfully on women than on men with male pattern baldness. Some are also more affordable and all are easier to obtain without prescription.

Tried and tested ones include Kerastase Aminexil ampoules (about P1,400), Tricomin scalp spray, Nioxin Professional anti-hairloss patch (P1,500 for a box of 28), and Collin C. Hair Recovery Complex (for hair loss due to hormonal changes after pregnancy; Collin C hotline: 8997956).

New foundation, mascara

Max Factor's lipsticks have not discontinued, we lately. But its new foundation and mascara have.

The Liquid Illusion Foundation (P995) looks like oil-in-one on the pot, but melts to a liquid on the sponge or fingers and feels cool on the skin when applied. It is easy to apply and, overall, looks like one has great skin even without make-up due to the medium coverage it offers. It also feels weightless and seamlessly sheer.

Claimed had a foundation like this a long time ago but was discontinued. Liquid Illusion is very portable, with a sturdy screw-on lid and compact mirror underneath for a great quality upgrade. A little skin goes a long way so it is economical as well. I just wish it came with a mirror.

Max Factor Masterpiece Boxed Length Mascara (P695) maintains the two-worthy lengthening and thickening effects of each lash of their original Masterpiece formula, but it now adds color on the other side of the tube.

The four combinations are: Blazing Black, which is black on one side and pink on the other end; Twisted Black, Black and Bronze; Smooth Black, Black and Brown; and Electrified Black, Brown and Bronze (the most discreet and allows one to look okay during the daytime).

Masterpiece is perfect for those who are resting their eyes from eyelash extensions and wants but do not want the attention taken away from their lashes. I picked the Blazing Black and think the pink to the flying black is a good contrast to dark coffee-brown eyes and hair.

Aminexil is available at any Kerastase salon while Revitan is available at Cecile salon (9011866) and Pamilo Beauty (9402380).

You may e-mail the author at the tynsalas@yahoo.com

ENTERTAINMENT
Editor Brenda G. Valerio

CHEER FACTOR

Lost Beatles interview surfaces

A BEATLES INTERVIEW FROM "DR. DAVE IN WHICH JOHN Lennon and Paul McCartney discussed the way they composed songs together was broadcast on British radio Tuesday. It was found in a film can in a damp garage in south London. The British Broadcasting Corp. discovered the interview 44 years after it was recorded at the Seventh Television studios on April 30, 1964. The Beatles were at the height of their immense popularity at the time. AP

Docu to mark Ninoy's 25th death anniversary

Filmmaker obtained access to court transcripts and had key scenes dramatized for impact

A NEW VIDEO DOCUMENTARY to commemorate the 25th death anniversary of former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. is currently in production under the supervision of multi-awarded director Peque Gallaga.

The still untitled project of the Foundation for World-wide People Power (FWPP) is scheduled for airing on network television in August.

Reenactments

FWPP chair Eugenia "Eggie" Apostol and secretary/treasurer lawyer Felicitas Aquino are the executive producers of the feature-length docu being written by Ruben V. Tangco.

For added depth, believe that reenactments of Aquino's assassination (including the killing of alleged assassin Rolando Galman) on Aug. 21, 1983 from the vantage points of several key eyewitnesses).

Other dramatized scenes include: 1) a high-ranking military officer briefing Galman from Barangay Bagong Silang in San Miguel, Bulacan (Bilibid in the actual location); 2) the final briefing given to Galman by other military officers at the Crafton Hotel in Parañaque; 3) Galman's last breakfast with his supposed "girlfriend," Ima Olive; and 4) a Hukbalahap meeting called by former President Ferdinand Marcos, instructing Sandiganbayan officers to do a "housecleaning" during the trial of the accused military personnel.

The documentary features an impressive array of interviewees/reenactors persons, such as former Senators Heherson Alvarez, Ernesto Maceda, Jovito Salonga, Ben Aquino, and Teofisto Guingona Jr.; and former NBC news reporter Ken Kashiwahara, Aquino's brother-in-law and companion on that fateful trip to Manila.

Former Agrava Fact-Finding Board General Counsel and Chief Justice Andres Narvasa; historians Jose Nolasco Emilio and Soriano Aquino; Sandiganbayan Justice Regino Hernando-Abesamis Jr., who presided over the second Sandiganbayan trial; Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez; and forensic pathologist Dr. Arsenio Evangelista.

Nolasco and Tangco also travelled to the United States to interview Prof. Belinda Aquino, Sorensen academic scholar on the Marcos years; former US Ambassador Michael Armacost; former San Francisco Chronicle reporter (now executive vice president) Phil Bronstein; and the feared "Crying Lady" Rebecca Quijano.

Transcripts

Relevant footages were shot in the Aquinos' former residence in Newton, a suburb of Boston.

As part of the production's extensive research efforts, Bulatao gained access to actual Sandiganbayan court transcripts, including the case Ignacio Agrava Board Photo-Chronology. The production also acquired a dubbed copy of the original documentation footage shot by the ABC news crew, who were with Aquino on his trip from Taipei.

More details about the production will be soon be available at fwppi.org.

CONFUSION: on the canvas is one of several scenarios that director Raoul Pedrosa had researched.

Eliad Cohen as the commando turned hairdresser

Israelis flattered by 'The Zoban'

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL—BY JOHN Hyatt Dye, Israelis have a Welcomed here, never mind if that soldier-turned-hairstylist played by Adam Sandler represents some of their country's worst stereotypes.

"You Don't Mess With the Zohan" appears to be a big hit in the Holy Land. Billboards bearing the leading man's split-legged, blowdryer-wielding image are plastered across city walls and numerous movie have been written and broadcast in the local media, telling it the "most Israeli film Hollywood."

The movie's title is bridge Jews and Arabs by making fun of them. But in Israel, where the movie opened Thursday, people are drawn to more because of its Israeli protagonist and the wealth of Israeli actors and musicians featured in the film.

The Zohan is Israel's most legendary commando. He can hassle Arab women with his crude accent and machismo.

Zohan fakes his own death in dramatic fashion so he can re-emerge anonymously in Manhattan and fulfill his lifelong dream of becoming a women's hairstylist.

There he charms his way to success and discovers that Jews and Arabs can get along, before somewhat clichéd plot lines force him back to his aggressive ways. AP

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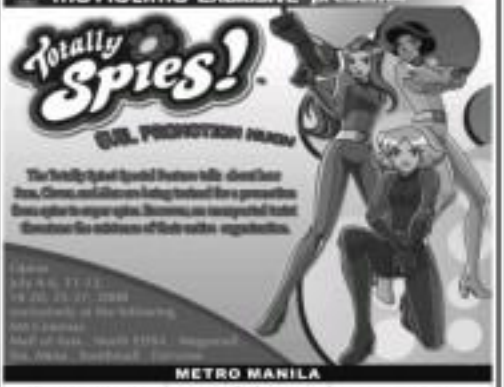

METRO MANILA

IMAX
KUNG FU PANDA
SPEED RACER
DEEP SEA
T-REX

THE PODIUM
WANTED
HANCOCK
LATE SCREENINGS

SHANGRI-LA
NARNIA
CINEMA 1
Admission Price: P160

SM CITY MARILAO
1 WANTED
2 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
3 MY MONSTER MOM
4 GET SMART
5 KUNG FU PANDA
6 THE HOTTIE & THE NOTTIE
7 BANGKOK: PRINCE CHAPLAIN
8 MY MONSTER MOM
PRINCESS CHINA
MY MONSTER MOM
CONTRACT KAO
RESERVED
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
RESERVED

SM CITY MARILAO
1 WANTED
2 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
3 WANTED
4 GET SMART
5 HANCOCK
6 NEVERDIE
7 NEVERDIE
8 NEVERDIE
9 NEVERDIE
10 NEVERDIE

SM CITY SAN MATEO
1 ALONE
2 THE HAPPENING
3 BANGKOK: PRINCE CHAPLAIN
4 WANTED
5 HANCOCK
6 VANGUARD
7 MY MONSTER MOM
8 KUNG FU PANDA
9 GET SMART
10 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
11 TOTALLY SPIES! MOVIE

SM CITY SAN MATEO
1 HANCOCK
2 MY MONSTER MOM
3 NEVERDIE
4 HANCOCK
5 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
6 KUNG FU PANDA
7 GET SMART
8 ALONE
9 TOTALLY SPIES! MOVIE

SM CITY SAN MATEO
1 KUNG FU PANDA
2 WANTED
3 HANCOCK
4 MY MONSTER MOM

SM CITY SAN MATEO
1 HANCOCK
2 MY MONSTER MOM
3 NEVERDIE
4 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
5 BANGKOK: PRINCE CHAPLAIN
6 GET SMART
7 THE HAPPENING
8 KUNG FU PANDA

SM CITY SAN MATEO
1 HANCOCK
2 MY MONSTER MOM
3 NEVERDIE
4 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
5 KUNG FU PANDA
6 GET SMART
7 TOTALLY SPIES! MOVIE
8 MADE OF HONOR

SM CITY SAN MATEO
SOON TO OPEN

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1 HANCOCK
2 WANTED
3 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
4 MY MONSTER MOM

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
2 HANCOCK
3 WANTED
4 MY MONSTER MOM

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1 HANCOCK
2 MY MONSTER MOM
3 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
4 WANTED

LUZON

SM CITY BACOLOD
1 THE HAPPENING
2 ALONE
3 HANCOCK
4 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
5 WANTED
6 MY MONSTER MOM
7 VANGUARD

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 MY MONSTER MOM
2 HANCOCK
3 WANTED
4 THE HAPPENING

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 MY MONSTER MOM
2 WANTED
3 HAPPENING TO HAPPENING
4 HANCOCK

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 MY MONSTER MOM
2 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
3 WANTED
4 HANCOCK

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 WANTED
2 MY MONSTER MOM
3 THE HAPPENING
4 HANCOCK

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 HANCOCK
2 MY MONSTER MOM
3 MADE OF HONOR
4 WANTED

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
2 HANCOCK
3 THE HAPPENING
4 KUNG FU PANDA
5 WANTED
6 MY MONSTER MOM

SM CITY CLARK
1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
2 WANTED
3 HANCOCK
4 THE HAPPENING
5 MY MONSTER MOM
6 KUNG FU PANDA

SM CITY DAVAO
1 WANTED
2 LINGUA
3 MY MONSTER MOM
4 HANCOCK

SM CITY DAVAO
1 HANCOCK
2 WANTED
3 LINGUA
4 MY MONSTER MOM

SM CITY DAVAO
1 HANCOCK
2 WANTED
3 MY MONSTER MOM
SOON TO OPEN

SM CITY GENERAL SANTOS
1 WANTED
2 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
3 WANTED
4 THE HAPPENING
5 KUNG FU PANDA
6 HANCOCK
7 GET SMART
8 MY MONSTER MOM
9 KUNG FU PANDA

SM CITY ILOILO
1 WANTED
2 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
3 HANCOCK
4 GET SMART
5 NEVERDIE
6 NEVERDIE
7 BANGKOK: PRINCE CHAPLAIN
8 THE INCREDIBLE HULK

SM CITY ILOILO
1 HANCOCK
2 WANTED
3 MY MONSTER MOM
4 ONE & THE CITY
5 THE HAPPENING

VISAYAS • MINDANAO

SM CITY BACOLOD
1 WANTED
2 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
3 MY MONSTER MOM
4 KUNG FU PANDA
5 SEMI-ONE
6 HANCOCK

SM CITY CEBU
1 MY MONSTER MOM
2 NEVERDIE
3 WANTED
4 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
5 HANCOCK
6 GET SMART
7 NEVERDIE
8 NEVERDIE

SM CITY CEBU
1 WANTED
2 SEMI-ONE
3 HANCOCK
4 GET SMART
5 NEVERDIE
6 NEVERDIE
7 BANGKOK: PRINCE CHAPLAIN
8 THE INCREDIBLE HULK

SM CITY CEBU
1 HANCOCK
2 WANTED
3 MY MONSTER MOM
4 ONE & THE CITY
5 THE HAPPENING

SM CITY CEBU
1 HANCOCK
2 WANTED
3 MY MONSTER MOM
4 ONE & THE CITY
5 THE HAPPENING

SM CITY DAVAO
1 HANCOCK
2 ONE & THE CITY
3 MY MONSTER MOM
4 WANTED

SM CITY DAVAO
1 MY MONSTER MOM
2 WANTED
3 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
4 HANCOCK
5 GET SMART
6 NEVERDIE
7 NEVERDIE
8 ALTERED

SM CITY DAVAO
1 HANCOCK
2 WANTED
3 MY MONSTER MOM
4 ONE & THE CITY
5 THE HAPPENING

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GALLERIA

1 HANCOCK
2 HANCOCK
3 WANTED
4 MY MONSTER MOM
5 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
6 ALONE
7 PAUPAWAN
8 indieSine: TIRADOR
9 GET SMART
10 KUNG FU PANDA

now showing at

indieSine
Brillante Mendoza's
TIRADOR
(Slaughter)

ERMITA

1 HANCOCK
2 ALONE
3 MY MONSTER MOM
4 WANTED
5 GET SMART
6 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
7 KUNG FU PANDA
8 PAUPAWAN
9 HANCOCK

METRO EAST

1 ALONE
2 HANCOCK
3 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
4 HANCOCK
5 GET SMART
6 THE HOTTIE and THE NOTTIE
7 WANTED
8 MY MONSTER MOM

NOVALICHES

1 HANCOCK
2 THE INCREDIBLE HULK / ALONE
3 WANTED
4 MY MONSTER MOM

PIONEER

1 HANCOCK
2 WANTED
3 MY MONSTER MOM
4 ALONE

STA. ROSA

1 HANCOCK
2 MY MONSTER MOM
3 GET SMART
4 THE INCREDIBLE HULK / GET SMART

LIPA

1 WANTED
2 HANCOCK
3 MY MONSTER MOM
4 THE HAPPENING

DASMARIÑAS

1 WANTED
2 HANCOCK
3 MY MONSTER MOM
4 THE INCREDIBLE HULK

IMUS

1 HANCOCK
2 WANTED
3 MY MONSTER MOM
4 THE INCREDIBLE HULK

ANGELES

1 WANTED
2 HANCOCK
3 MY MONSTER MOM
4 THE HAPPENING

STARMILLS

1 WANTED
2 HANCOCK
3 MY MONSTER MOM
4 THE HAPPENING
5 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
6 PATHOLOGY

BACOLOD

1 WANTED
2 MY MONSTER MOM
3 THE HAPPENING
4 SEX AND THE CITY
5 HANCOCK
6 PAUPAWAN

ILOILO

1 HANCOCK
2 WANTED
3 MY MONSTER MOM
4 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
5 GET SMART
6 ALTERED

Agreeable visual variety, brisk storytelling in 'Urduja'

VIEWFINDER

Archie U. Jove

FOR YEARS NOW, WE'VE been urging local producers to bankroll a full-length animated film using Filipino animation, production people and voice talents. We know that local animation is not a talented lot, and in fact had successful runs of films working for top movie outfits in the United States, sometimes in key positions.

Trouble was, local producers never had the courage to go animated features, because of the huge capital involved and the likelihood that it would take years for them to recover their investment. This is true since it takes many months and even years to produce an animated feature, since both traditional digital animation takes longer to make than a live-action movie.

Long-range thinking

BUT we felt that, if only some of our producers decided to think long range for a change, animated features were the way for them to go, because of the increased possibility of being able to sell their productions abroad, since animated movies are better able to transcend the usual market limitations and restrictions.

In addition, successful animated features can be shown again every five years or so, thus adding to their potential for income generation. And, more money can be made from spin-off products, provided the ups and residuals, as well.

In general, however, local producers haven't been enthusiastic about sending of their options. That's why we were glad to hear that MV Entertainment Inc. had bankrolled its first animated feature, "Urduja." We homered in points in last June 19.

Right off, we were happy to see that the production's voice palette was classic and more vivid than the last local animated feature we viewed, quite a number of years ago. The voice rendition of principal characters was also quite deft, if a bit derivative.

Even better, the movie's plotting was quite eventful, eye-opening "explorations," and dramatically showed Filipino animators' work at its best, and most original. More of this, please.

'Rock n Rumble'

ON July 5 at the World Trade Center, Bradford Schiff, creator of the "Rock n Rumble" concert promoted by Pony Reynoso in cooperation with Pedge Magazine. Watch the band. Pony's new endeavor, now through a set of its own, with or a Universal Studio Coaster Championship (09-12) month happens here!

Sir Ben Kingsley a Beatle would-have-been?

LOS ANGELES—IMAGINE Sir Ben Kingsley as a Beatle. It was one of those might-have-beens for the knighted actor.

"I was offered a contract by Dick James who recorded all the Beatles' early discs," the Oscar winning thespian said in a recent interview. "It was an extraordinary meeting. Dick was quite insistent because he heard me play the guitar and sing onstage in London, as did the boys, John (Lennon) and Ringo (Starr). It was quite difficult for me to decide which way to go. In the same week, I was offered a 'line of credit' small but successful roles in classical theatre. I decided to follow the classical theatre route."

Music's loss was the acting world's gain. Today, Sir Ben is considered one of the world's finest actors. He stars in "The Wackness," one of the favorites in the Sundance Film Festival early this year, which won the audience award for narrative feature last Sunday at the Los Angeles Film Festival. He plays Dr. Squires, a marijuana-smoking shrink – a middle-aged man who probably forgot the habit as he grew up in the Stanley-influenced, psychedelic 1960s.

Groping psychiatrist

A troubled teenage drug dealer, portrayed by Josh Peck, reaches out for therapy sessions with the psychiatrist who is intent on living life to the fullest. The two form an unlikely friendship but complications begin when the kid falls for the doctor's daughter (Olivia Thirlby of "Juno"). In one scene, Sir Ben explores sex with one of the characters, Mary-Kate.

"I have to answer you that no drugs were harmed during the making of this film," Sir Ben quipped. Worse the knighted actor, famous for playing Gandhi, as a groping psychiatrist, sporting long hair and smoking from a bong. His look in the film is quite a contrast to his shaved head these days.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Roberto V. Nepales

Of the need to fight up in the movie, the actor said in his impeccable British accent: "There's a kind of romantic response in the body when you find that you're doing something very taboo. So even though the substance was herbal tobacco, I got the same unstoppable fits of giggles. I felt as though I was somehow deliciously cheating the world every time I lit a bong or took a drag of that herbal tobacco.

Novelty in naiveté

Sir Ben explained, "Because I've never handled any of that stuff before, the prop men dressed me time to use it but I also rather liked the way that I stayed somewhat naive in my handling of it. I wanted to look as though I somehow have never done it before. Some people can do something on a daily basis but when you watch them, it looks as though they've never done it before. There's a naiveté to it. It's the novelty you quite like."

He said the long hair was his idea. "It was my decision," he said. "The rather unruly long hair is my character's message gesture toward adolescent rebelliousness. He hasn't quite grown up. The wig was made by a lady in Vancouver. We worked very carefully on the wig. I was happy with the resulting portrait of Dr. Squires that I created."

In Mike Bilgore's comedy, "The Love Guru," Ben, who was born Krishna Bhanji in England to an English mother/actress and a Muslim Indian doctor, has a short role as a cross-eyed spiritual leader named...get this, "Jagginnerpantsthis." "The film satirizes the Western world's unconscionable appetite to anything called guru," he explained. "We have property guru, weight guru, money guru, love guru, cooking guru, poker guru and more. It's a sendup/appropriation of an ancient word. The film door look at the crazy obsession with gurus that started I suppose in the 1960s with the Maharishi and the Beatles, and evolving for many years into what we have today. It's a very gentle satire, in the heart of the western appetite for the guru is a desire for self-realization."

Of being knighted in 2001, Ben mused, "When we try and describe the British sense of English sense of things, it's very hard for us to do so unless we do it through illustration or example. Let me try to do this because the whole phenomenon of knighthood is a very strangely English thing. On the one hand, in British society you have a total indifference to success. There's an almost contempt for success (leavening or lampooning successful personalities and politicians, snubbing them very coolly, pouring them down in very crude a pan of the traditional English approach to what we might loosely call fame or success. They don't like it."

Extraordinary gesture

He added, "But in reverse, in a restaurant in Los Angeles, for example, five or six people will leave their table, come over to our table and very sweetly say, 'I love your work,' go back and sit down. I think that's so charming.

"In England, this is what happens when you have a restaurant full of astonished people repeatedly looking at him with disdain. But on the other end of the scale is when you think that the English ignore you to the point of really being quite disdainful, the government and the Queen have a way of saying, 'We salute like you.' There is seeming indifference to success and yet there is this extraordinary gesture, this beautifully institutionalized acknowledgement of successes that are unknown. Every culture has its own balance."

Since the 64-year-old actor is married to a Brazilian, Daniela Barbosa de Carvalho, he was asked if he is learning Portuguese. "You answer this, darling," Ben said with a smile turned mischievous in the back. Everyone turned around to see Diana," a sultry-looking woman, in a skintight dress, who is 31 years his junior and is his wife No. 4. She simply smiled.

"My Portuguese is nonexistent," Ben said, his eyes still gleaming, "My wife is the daughter of a retired English professor in Brazil." To laughter, he said, "So Dani's family speaks better English than I do."

Happy and fulfilled

A question inquiring if he is happy and fulfilled these days prompted Sir Ben to share an illuminating anecdote: "Let me approach that question slightly sideways, if you don't mind. Because I find it very difficult to answer when it is about my personal life. I remember a great theatre director, Peter Brook, who said something to all of us when we were gathered together rehearsing 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at the Almanacs Theatre in LA in the 1970s. We were then a very young cast.

"Peter said at that it's really impossible for an actor to do his work if he is unhappy," he continued. "He offered us the hypothesis that sometimes unhappiness drives us forward creatively but even though you're driven, and you may be energized by an unique brave unhappiness, you actually may not be doing your best work.

"I have to agree with Peter that if I am not happy inside, I'd be limping through my role in, for example, my next film 'Elegy' (with Penelope Cruz), which is an extraordinary examination of a unique love story. It examines love, life and death in the most beautiful way. I'd be guessing at the given issues that the film examines. But since I've been married to Dani and in love with Dani, a remote huge part of my game work is over."

Email the columnist at rnepales_1999@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Napales Report," on http://blogs.inquirer.net/napalesreport.

Roundup

A SPOKESMAN for Angelina Jolie on Tuesday said the actress is "doing great" following reports that she had checked into a hospital in Nice, France, ahead of the birth of twins. She was admitted to the Lenval Hospital on Monday. ►P

NEW YORK — US pop star Madonna and her husband, British film maker Guy Ritchie, are not planning on divorce, her spokeswoman said in an e-mail to Reuters on Tuesday. Rumors of the split-up have been circulating for months, fueled by reports that the singer had lined up Fiona Shackleton, a lawyer for Paul McCartney in his bitter divorce from Heather Mills. ►P

HONG KONG—John Woo is returning to Chinese film with an ambitious two-part historical epic, "Red Cliff," which he hopes will also appeal to Western audiences. ►P

RAPPER Jay-Z, Beyonce's millionaire hubby, performs at the Glastonbury Festival, best known for guitar-based rock acts, in Somerset, England. ►P

SHOW (played by Sacha Lobato, left) swings Nala (Ainsley Wong) around in the Disney on Ice presentation of "Mickey & Minnie's Amazing Journey," running in Melbourne until July 7. ►P

Auditions on for HK Disney shows

RYAN Cayabyab

RYAN CAYABYAB IS CALLING ON all professional performing artists who would like to audition for Hong Kong Disneyland.

Int'l touring team

An international touring team will audition members on July 9 at The Music School of Ryan Cayabyab in Robinsons Galleria, and dancers on July 10 at the BalleTeatro School of Ballet, 1227 Quezon Ave., Quezon City. Auditions start at 10 a.m. on both days.

Applicants should be at least 16 years old. Vocalists should bring sheet music of two contrasting Filipino selections. There will be a piano at the venue. Minus-one music is not allowed.

Dancers should wear appropriate attire. They will be taught a dance combination.

Music skills, showmanship

"The artists' engagement with Hong Kong Disneyland is an opportunity not only to share but also to learn and gain valuable experience," said Cayabyab, whose music school has been supervising auditions for the theme park since it opened in 2005. He said he himself wouldn't have a hand in choosing those who will make it, but that the touring team would be looking for professionals who possess both excellent music skills and showmanship.

Pre-registration for both auditions is ongoing at The Music School of Ryan Cayabyab. Call 637-0848 and 914-5055 or visit hongkongdisneyland.com/us-tours.

LIVING Stars

Editor Bernie G. Velarde

MEASURE AND SEE 2 TONES FAIRER*

FAT SUIT, CHECK...
...actresses, check... Regine acts her age (more or less) in new series. /G4

YASMIEN KURDI

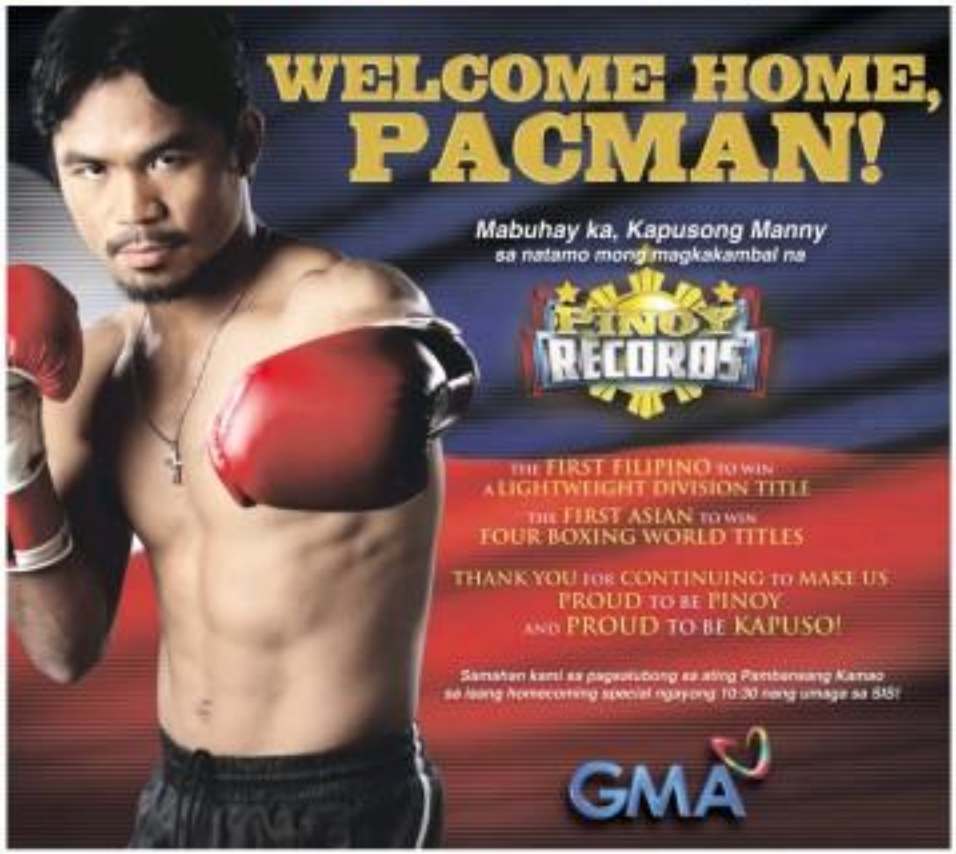
UNFOLLOW THE "IT GIRL" SERIES OF NOVels. I read "Unforgettable" by Cecily von Ziegesar, who is the same author of "Gossip Girl." It's a love story. It tells you that there are unreasonable events in your life that are best forgotten or you can move on. I want to understand that kind of a situation. I really relate to the "It Girl" stories. I also love "Untouchable," by Mo Hayder. It's about a girl who keeps auditioning for roles in plays, and how she copes with personal and professional problems. I also see myself in that book.

Reported Sean Ekiga Jr.

RICA PERALEJO

C. S. LEWIS IS MY FIRST LOVE. I IDOLIZE him for the way he writes. He writes in 3D. His book, "A Grief Observed," is probably his best. He wrote it shortly after he lost his wife. It contains his conversations with God, his doubts, his fears. This is heavy reading. If you're not ready for it, don't read it. It may rule you.

Marivel S. Cruz

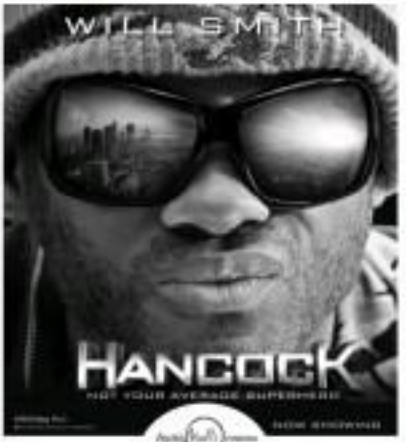


'Hancoc
world pren
in H'wood

GARDO VERSOZA

MY SHARED PERSIAN CAT BOSHANE CAME FROM MY FRIEND SANDY DEE. LOOK HE'S bathed that because we took some dumped in cans in Iloilo. I wanted to name him Victor —like my dogs Killer (Bonvoller), Congressman (Cirkie Dato!) and General (Ms. Ball). It's because Gordy is a racist lover, which is good because he sticks to us from. Unlike other cats, he doesn't like seafood. But once in a while, I bring home tuna sashimi for him. We play a lot. He used to come to play at night, but I've trained him to stay playmate at only in the morning. Bagsak!

ck'
miere
, June 30



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"ULTIMATE SUPERHERO COLLECTION"

HANCOCK
WEEKEND PICK-A-PRICE

Watch HANCOCK at GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS on July 4 & 5
and get a chance to win any of the following:

- Marvel Superheroes VCDs/DVDs
- Hancock Photo Bags
- Hancock Posters
- Gift Certificates
- and many more!

glorietta

AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1	1 WANTED	2 HANCOCK	3 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	4 MY MONSTER MOM			
GLORIETTA 4	1 MY MONSTER MOM	2 HANCOCK	3 WANTED	4 HANCOCK	5 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	6 WANTED	7 GET SMART
GREENBELT 1	1 WANTED	2 HANCOCK					
GREENBELT 2	1 WANTED	2 HANCOCK					
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 WANTED	2 MADE OF HONOR	3 WANTED				
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 HANCOCK	2 WANTED					
MARKET! MARKET!	1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	2 HANCOCK	3 WANTED				
TRINOMA	1 HANCOCK	2 WANTED	3 GET SMART	4 MY MONSTER MOM			
	1 HANCOCK	2 GET SMART					
	1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	2 WANTED	3 MY MONSTER MOM				
	1 MY MONSTER MOM	2 GET SMART	3 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	4 WANTED			
	1 WANTED	2 HANCOCK	3 HANCOCK				

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

glorietta — BELLYFEST, June 28, Glorietta Activity Center

GREENBELT — SATURDAY JAZZ NIGHTS AT GREENBELT 1, June 21, 7:00pm @ 30pm

ALABANG TOWN CENTER — Move That Fire Promo, June 13 - July 14, Multimedia

AYALA CENTER CEBU — Big Brothers Big Event Mall Tour, June 28, 4PM, Activity Center

MARKET! MARKET! — Mini Madness, June 28-29, Activity Center

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glorietta GREENBELT

WENDELL RAMOS

When the cameras were not rolling, Wendell Ramos wore a sling.

The actor had dislocated his shoulder due to a bad fall while playing tug-of-war at the recent 2nd "Kapa-volleyball" in Calatagan, Batangas. "I lost my balance and my shoulders dislocated—so I fell," he recounted. "Masakit pa rin siya. My doctor says it will take one more week before I can start therapy."

Wendell said he was "very thankful" to Ira Kapuso bosses for giving him the role of Hanzo. "I didn't even have to audition for it. To think that there are a lot of actors who can probably play it better. I'm happy that GMA 7 trusted me this much."

REGINE VELASQUEZ

Regine Velasquez said she can relate to her character, Kim Samsoon, in a lot of ways.

"I don't think I'm fat, but a lot of people say I am. Samsoon and I are both sensitive with our weight. We're both happy with the way we look," the singer told Inquirer Entertainment.

Kim Samsoon is 20, single and overweight. She loves baking and dreams of owning a shop of her own. She lands a job in the French restaurant owned by the grouchy Cyrus Hyun.

Kim Sam-oh, the actress who played the role in the Korean series, reportedly had to gain 15 lbs. to play the role. Regine opted to wear a fat suit.

"There's also the aspect of age. In Filipino society, when you reach a certain age, you are supposed to be married, preferably with kids. People pressure you into finding a partner," Regine noted.

In fact, she said, she is repeatedly asked about marriage plans with her boyfriend, singer-composer Ogie Alcasid.

Visiting Kim Samsoon

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Ryan Lim

ARE SI KIM SAM-soon" may be an adaptation of the Korean soap series "My Lovely Sam-soon," but the finished product in Pinoy, said director Dominic Zapata.

"The framework is the same and all the key characters are present, but we embellished it with new characters to make it more Filipino," Zapata told Inquirer Entertainment during a visit to the set at Canyon Woods in Lemery, Batangas, last week. "We also focused on the subject of family and infused our own kind of humor."

GMA 7 acquired the rights to make the local version of the widely-popular 2005 Korean show. The network earlier aired adaptations of the Hispanic drama telenovelas "Marimar" and the Japanese action-adventure series "Shaider" (shown locally as "Cadet").

Zapata said very specific guidelines, laid down by the Korean producers, were followed while shooting the series. "These guidelines were made so we don't commit grave mistakes," he explained. "But we made our show our own."

Zapata continued: "They will be very pleased when they see our product. I'm so confident about this, that I don't mind sharing it with other Asian countries, maybe even with Western audiences."

Playing the role of Samsoon, the middle-aged and overweight baker, is singer-actress Regine Velasquez. Wilab Artiche ng Fernandez takes on the role of the rude and angsty French restaurant owner Cyrus Hyun. Wendell Ramos is Harvey Min, who breaks Samsoon's heart by thinking her on their wedding day.

Also in the cast are Beth Tamayo as Samsoon's mother, Mrs. Sonia Pinat; Carmi Martin as Cyrus' domineering mom, Mrs. Hun; Eugene Domingo as Chef Irma; Nadine Samonte as Cyrus' ex-fiancée, Hannah; Andrew Gan as Harvey's friend, Cherry; and Maureen Larrazabal as Samsoon's best friend Maureen.

Sky e Kim Samsoon" airs weekdays on *The Weekend Break.*

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EUGENE DOMINGO

Eugene Domingo is on cloud 9.

Her role as the Hyden mother Ms. Cancio Asmara-Soliva's "Pinay" bargain hair was then Supporting Actress—Film—for Eugene Domingo at the Entertainment Press Society and another from the Philippine Movie Press Club.

"It's like planting good seeds," the actress explained. "I've gone through droughts and roaring seasons. Now it's harvest time."

Eugene, famous for her work in various ABS-CBN productions like "Ang Tanging Ina," "Sikla," "Kampanerong Kuba," and "Bahay," said she was ecstatic to be working with GMA 7.

"I wanted to explore other awards, meet new people. I didn't want to be stuck in one place," she said.

RIGHT: Luna (center) is Cherry, Harvey's fiancée.

DOMINIC ZAPATA

"I'm sure she won't be doing anything that will shock me out of my wits," said Dominic Zapata of his girlfriend, actress Iriana Sanello, who agreed to pose for the cover of FHM in August.

"I trust her," Dominic added. "She did that because photographer Jake Verzosa was her friend. The magazine had been wanting to put her on the cover since she was 20."

Dominic also said Iriana's "feeling" role in Joven Tan's "Pangalan" was done in "very good taste."

He pointed out that the role called for Iriana to bare some skin. "Plus," said Dominic, "who would pass up the chance to work with the funny Ising [the movie's cinematographer]? It would be such an honor, for anyone, to work with him."

MARK ANTHONY FERNANDEZ

Mark Anthony Fernandez is thankful that work keeps him from minding his dad, the late action star Rudy Fernandez.

Mark plays Cyrus, Samsoon's temperamental boss and object of affection.

"I try to channel my depression into something positive," Mark told us. His father passed away on June 7.

"The same thing happens at home," he added. "We try to act normal, even though we know that, without Papa, things will never be normal again."

MARK Anthony Fernandez

SHEENA Halili is Cyrus' ex-fiancée, Hannah.

MARIET Lopez plays assistant chef Jaime.

DOMINIC Zapata